

August 1959

Minor revisions, April 1968

To: My Cooper Relatives

From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601

Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKeny ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamed, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKeny. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossey Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKeny, at the McKeny homestead near Mossey Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossey Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1766 and in which both the McKeny and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKeny, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKeny & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school. According to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

Salary due to James Cooper for teaching school:

Thomas Caherly, Dr to Cash	L	8	D
B. Jacob Nottingham, Dr to Cash	O	1	10
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	O	2	0
	O	N	0

Stephen Finard, Dr to Cash
John Suttain, Dr to Cash

L	S	D
0	12	0
0	12	0

Taken from the Book—it Being a Ballance Due me from the Employers January the 16th, 1804. James Cooper

James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and Solemnised a marriage between the above named James Cooper and Nancy Wooddell of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow.^d
in presence of
Chs L Francisco

JAS COOPER
JOS WOODDELL

Seal

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of 79° 48' 30" and north latitude of 38° 26' 45". Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1845:

This Deed was made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr Lamb and Betsey his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Solomon Conrad thence N. 60° W. 100 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Boon Tallman's line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a white Oak and hickory thence S. 60° E. 96 poles to 2 Birchies a branch S. 11° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridge thence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning:

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Marlick and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Carters Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar trees S. 80° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence N. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 53 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.

94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Side S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 86° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 58° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforementioned tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertinances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertinances thereunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper Seal

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine Seal

Wm. Arbogast Seal

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

501 Elizabeth (Betsey) McKemy Cooper

Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.

Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.

Place of burial not known.

Married April 4, 1844 to Samuel Woods

502 Melinda Cooper

Born December 21, 1808, Green Bank, W. Va.

Died 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.

Place of burial not known.

Unmarried

*503 James Harvey Cooper

Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.
 Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.
 Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman
 (born September 28, 1817, Anthony's Creek, Greenbrier County,
 W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried
 beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.

504 Nancy B. Cooper

Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died March 3, 1885, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Unmarried

505 John Thomas Cooper

Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 9, 1878, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin
 Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn's Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.
 died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)
 & Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)

506 Margaret I. Cooper

Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married March 12, 1844, to Enoch R. Hill (born January 13, 1821—
 died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.), son John Hill (1790-
 1885) & Keturah Cunningham (-).

507 Lucinda Cooper

Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander
 Gillaspie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green
 Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).

508 Joseph William Cooper

Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Warwick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Married first 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (born October 21, 1822—
 died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)
 Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.
 Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &
 F. Arbogast.
 Married third to Mary E. Arbogast (born 1845), daughter of Solomon
 Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.

509 Eliza Virginia Cooper

Born September 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 18, 1900, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married November 30, 1849, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the various members of the McKemy family and between some of the McKemys and the children

of James Cooper (-1781). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (-1781) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKemy vs. McKemy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKemy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper-McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify^d Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Carbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indugence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tennessee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some money as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mention^d to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectiate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemy
N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper
July the 31st 1806
Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (-1781) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemy in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossy Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Deneven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Sampson Hathens one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that

Page 6
he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County far-
mer and James McMahon the Said John McMahonson will beat him (wound main
kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the
peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to
Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt here of
you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other
Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for
his personal appearance at the next Court to be holden for the said County
as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this
Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of
September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable

Sampson Mathews

Seal

To Execute and Return

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages
100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was
mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by
the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days
in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of
March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed
Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Sleven and Samuel Hogsett
as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since
the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not
settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Red 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff
of Pocahontas County for the sum of \$13.78 & also for the sum of \$9.08
money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James
Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Super-
ior Court of law & chs. for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs.
said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the
purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.
W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the
Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia
Militia at the House of John Bradshaws in the County of Pocahontas on the
26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed
three Dollars per day for Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts
of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to \$9.
Joseph Moore C.C.E.
Tells

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the
Sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dol-
lars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia
fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.

James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers: Page 7

1839—James Wooddell to the Com^r of the Revenue for Pocahontas County, In to Ditering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devise by Joseph Wooddell.

Jas. Cooper Com^r Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buried in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except such as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choise of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Betsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its appertinances, including all the Farming Utentials and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single sate of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper maintains his Mother during her Life time or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giving him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs living on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentials which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cow, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to maintain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentials during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters or in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned.—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without its interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out

of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Lastly: I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT

Boone Tallman

John A. Gillaspie

Jacob Pible

Jas. Cooper

Seal

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Melinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1956, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossy Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert H. Gun, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

James Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dumore. Her daughter Nannie became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Gatewood Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William Kerr in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Melinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wise, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverage; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dumore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louisa, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Melinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.

Cooper, McKamy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell,
Gothard, Wilson, & Patton Families

of

Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia

York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania

Blount, Knox, & Roane counties, Tennessee

Pocahontas, Gilmer, & Ritchie counties, West Virginia

Wayne County, Kentucky

Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana

York County, South Carolina

by

Homer C. Cooper
115 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

January 1, 1969

Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton

Our family is preparing a Cooper & McKemy family record and would appreciate information concerning the Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton families discussed below.

James Cooper (died 1781) & wife Jean McKemy

We are especially interested in information about James Cooper (died 1781) and Jean McKemy, his wife, who lived in Augusta County & Rockbridge County, Virginia, where James died in 1781. The will and estate records of James Cooper mention four children:

1. John Cooper

Born about 1771-1772. Apprenticed as a tailor, 1785-1789, and followed the tailoring trade for several years afterward. We have documentary evidence that he was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1801 and 1807, but no information as to whether he settled there permanently or married and had children.

2. Nancy Agnes Cooper

Born about 1775. Married after 1795 to William Gothard; settled in Georgia (where?); and had at least one son, John Cooper Gothard. Nancy Agnes died before 1809 and her brothers lost contact with her husband and son.

3. Thomas Cooper

Born about 1777. Adopted in 1793 by his uncle, James McKemy. Married March 7, 1798, Augusta County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of Robert Wilson. No further record of Thomas & Elizabeth.

4. James Cooper (1780-1845)

Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1780; settled at Green Bank, formerly Bath County, Virginia, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia, about 1802; and died at Green Bank in 1845. Married in 1805 to Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), daughter of Lt. Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) of Green Bank. James & Nancy were my great-great-grandparents. I have considerable information about them and their children which I would be happy to share.

We have no further information about James Cooper (died 1781) and would particularly like to know the names of his parents. We also would like to know more about John, Nancy Agnes, and Thomas: their dates and places of birth, marriage, and death; their spouses and children; and where they settled.

McKemy & Ferrell/Farrell

Jean McKemy was the daughter of John McKemy (died 1789) of Augusta County, Virginia. Her brother, James McKemy (born 1753), settled in Blount County, Tennessee, about 1787-1792 and applied for his Revolutionary War pension there in 1832. After the death of her first husband, James Cooper (died 1781), Jean married again, during 1781-1787, to a Mr. Ferrell or Farrell. We do not know the given name of Mr. Ferrell(Farrell), but suspect that he was the John Ferrell who purchased several items when the estate of James Cooper was sold in 1783.

Mr. Ferrell and Jean have not been found in all the records we have searched. The only two possibilities, neither confirmed, have been:

1. Wilkes County, Georgia, Deed Book MH, page 110, records that a John Ferrell and wife Jean sold 200 acres on Fishing Creek to William Low in 1790. We have no evidence that this John & Jean are our Ferrells

and would welcome any information you may have which would prove that they are or are not our people.

2. The third wife of James Ferrell (1732-1808) of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Halifax counties, Virginia, was named either Jean or Jane. We have no evidence that his Jean or Jane was our Jean and would appreciate any information you may have about them.

We would certainly be grateful for any data you may have about Jean and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Except for the two possibilities mentioned above, they seem to have "disappeared" from the records!

William Cooper (died about 1796) of Pennsylvania

William Cooper of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, died about 1796. His daughter Eleanor married a McKemy and we suspect--but cannot prove--that William Cooper (died about 1796) was related in some way to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia. We think that William Cooper lived in what is now the Mount Pleasant Township of Adams County, but have not located his grave. From Virginia courthouse and personal records--we have not searched Pennsylvania records--we know that William Cooper was married at least twice (but not the names of his wives) and had at least five children (but not the order of their births):

1. James Cooper
Lived in York County, Pennsylvania. Died during 1796-1807. Had business relations with a man named Archer of Guilford County, North Carolina.
2. William Cooper
Living in 1808, but we do not know where.
3. John Cooper
No data on him, unless he was the John Cooper in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1854.
4. Eleanor Cooper
Married John McKemy (died about 1793), brother of my great-great-great-grandmother, Jean McKemy, wife of James Cooper (died 1781) and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Eleanor & John settled in Augusta County, Virginia.
5. Mary (Polly) Cooper
Married Jacob Patton. Settled in Knox County, Tennessee.

If you have information about William Cooper (died about 1796) of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, particularly whether he was related to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia, we would certainly like to hear from you.

Final Note

Thank you very much for any help you may be able to give us. We want to share any Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton data with you. If I ever move, my current address can be obtained from the Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

January 1, 1969

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

We have additional Cooper and McKemy information, relevant for our search but not easily placed within the context of our presentation above, which is presented below, followed by comments and questions:

In 1775, James Cooper (died about 1781) sold a mare for thirty pounds to Thomas Cooper.

"June ye 4th 1777. Then Recd. of James Cooper the Sum of Six pounds part of the money which William Cooper sent by Isaac Taylor from fort Randolph per mo.

his
Richard X Magee
mark

WHERE WAS FORT RANDOLPH LOCATED?

No date, but presumably during 1772-1779: James Cooper (died 1781) paid the debts of a John Cooper to Andrew McCampbell, George Reeve, James Young, Mary Kinkum, and Joseph Shanks.

In 1779, James Davies and wife Mary of Rockbridge County sold to Thomas Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 200 pounds, 102 acres on the forks of James River in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1779, William McKemy and wife Ann of Rockbridge County sold to John Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 22 pounds, 90 acres on Kerrs Creek. Witnesses: James Cooper, William McCampbell, & William McMath.

In 1782, the inventory and appraisement of the estate of James Cooper (died 1781) included two Bibles. When the estate was sold in 1783, these Bibles were not included in the sale. WHERE ARE THESE BIBLES TODAY? They may have important birth, marriage, and death data.

In the hand of John McKemy, undated but presumably about 1783: a piece of paper headed "The Estate of James Cooper Decd. To Thos. Cooper." The first item under the heading reads: "To Cash paid to John Gilmore for Wm Cooper to order of Jas. Cooper."

In 1785, a piece of paper, the face side of which reads:

Gentlemen—If any of you can Spare Some Cattle to Mr. Robert Rush let him have them upon my Acct. and take his Rct. for the Value he Receives them at and I will Give you Credit on your Bonds for the Same for I Owe him and cannot Get the money for him, and he agrees to take Some Cattle in part for what I Owe him. yr. Compliance will Oblidge Gentln. yr. Hum. Servt.

Sept. 12th 1785

John McKemy

To Messrs. John Cooper, Thomas Cooper,
Joseph Thompson & Alexander McKemy

On the reverse side of this same piece of paper are two additional statements, the first of which is:

State of Tennessee

Blount County

This day Isabella Cooper Came before us John Tedford and William Gault two of the Justices of the peace of said County and made oath that the five pounds fifteen Shillings Received for here is part of an arbitration between John & James McKemy Executors for the Estate of James Cooper Decd. and Thomas Cooper

John Tedford
William Gault

The second of the two statements on the reverse side reads:

September the 14 1785--Received of Thomas Cooper five pounds fifteen shillings. Recd. by me

Robert Rusk

During 1787-1795, a John Ferrell of Knox County & Hawkins County, Tennessee, was grantee for several parcels of land recorded in Knox County deed books, including a grant by the State of North Carolina ("Copied from Book B, Page 89, Grant 275"). WAS THIS JOHN FERRELL THE SECOND HUSBAND OF JEAN MCKEMY, WIDOW OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)?

On September 20, 1785, in Augusta County, Virginia, John Cooper, "Son to James Cooper Decd. . . . and By the Consent of his Guardian John McKemy," was apprenticed to Thomas Hinds, a tailor. The indenture was witnessed by Benjamin Norton, John Middleton, and Eleanor Cooper.

In 1792, Thomas Cooper and wife Isabella of Rockbridge County sold to John Wilson, for 100 pounds, 100 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1796, John Cooper and wife Agnes of Rockbridge County sold to Robert Piper, for 100 pounds, 90 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Undated, in the hand of John McKemy: a paper headed "Thomas Cooper dr. To Jas. Cooper Estate" includes "To Cash paid When Going to Pitts Burgh, five pounds" and "To 1 Journey to Pennsylvania, three pounds ten shillings." WHAT RELATIVES DID THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777) HAVE IN PITTSBURGH AND PENNSYLVANIA?

In 1801, John Cooper ("heir to William Cooper, deceased") of Rockbridge County, Andrew Graham and wife Elizabeth ("mother to said heir") of Rockbridge County, and William Youel of Augusta County sold to George Wilson, for 300 pounds, 240 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Little Calf Pasture River.

In 1811, in Blount County, Tennessee, Isabella Cooper and Agness Townsley answered questions, under oath, concerning when and how long John Cooper (born about 1771) had lived in the household of his uncle, John McKemy, after the death of his father, James Cooper (died 1781). Apparently John Cooper lived in the McKemy household until June 1784.

In 1814, a William Gothard was a grantee in Knox County, Tennessee, deeds and in 1815 a William Goddard & Jane S. Campbell were married in Knox County. WAS HE THE WILLIAM GOTHARD WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF NANCY AGNES COOPER (born about 1775; died before 1809), daughter of James Cooper (died 1781)?

Comments and Questions

The information above raises many issues which are relevant for our search for Cooper and McKemy relationships.

Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to search for the William Cooper (died about 1796) estate records in Adams & York counties in Pennsylvania, which might clarify many of the relationships among persons presented above. From the 1775, 1777, 1772-1779, and 1779 data above, we conclude that James Cooper (died 1781) had not only sons named John, Thomas, and James (who were either not born or too young to have been involved in those early transactions) but also other relatives, probably the William Cooper family of Adams & York counties, by those given names.

The 1801 Rockbridge County data suggest that a William Cooper (dead by 1801)

had a son John and apparently a widow Elizabeth whose second husband was Andrew Graham. WAS THIS WILLIAM COOPER OUR WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF ADAMS AND YORK COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA? If yes, DID WILLIAM DIE IN ROCK-BRIDGE OR AUGUSTA COUNTY RATHER THAN ADAMS OR YORK COUNTY?

Apparently Thomas Cooper (born about 1777) was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1785, at which time he was about eight years old and the ward of Isabella Cooper. HOW WAS ISABELLA RELATED TO THOMAS AND TO HIS FATHER, JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? WAS ISABELLA COOPER OF BLOUNT COUNTY IN 1785 and 1811 THE SAME ISABELLA COOPER WHO WAS THE WIFE OF A THOMAS COOPER IN ROCK-BRIDGE COUNTY IN 1792? If yes, HOW WAS HER HUSBAND THOMAS RELATED TO HER HUSBAND, THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777)?

HOW--if at all--WAS AGNES TOWNSLY--in Blount County in 1811--RELATED TO THE COOPER AND MCKEMY FAMILIES?

In 1785, an Eleanor Cooper witnessed the indenture of John Cooper (born about 1771), son of James Cooper (died 1781) and ward of John McKemy. WAS SHE THE ELEANOR COOPER WHO MARRIED JOHN MCKEMY AND SURVIVED HIM? If yes, WAS THIS MARRIAGE A SECOND MARRIAGE FOR JOHN MCKEMY?

Thank you very much for your help. We are grateful for your assistance.

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

Athens, Georgia 30601

Any change in my address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I would be happy to hear from Cooper & McKemy families at any time!

My cousins and I are descended from James Cooper (1780-1845), youngest child of James & Jean, and wife Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. James & Nancy had nine children: (1) Elisabeth McKemy Cooper (1806-1845), married 1844 to Samuel Woods; settled at Greenhill, Highland County, Virginia. (2) Melinda Cooper (1808-1894), never married; lived in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. (3) James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881), married 1836 to Julia Ann Whitman (1817-1903); settled near Tanner, Gilmer County, West Virginia; their son, Charles Slavens Cooper (1844-1921), was my grandfather. (4) Nancy B. Cooper (1812-1885), never married; lived in Pocahontas County. (5) John Thomas Cooper (1814-1878), married 1850 to Louisa Lirpin Linn (1825-1916); settled at Parkersburg, West Virginia. (6) Margaret I. Cooper (1819-1895), married 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (1821-1896); settled at Burnt House, Ritchie County, West Virginia. (7) William Cooper (1821-1886), married 1843 to John Alexander Gillaspie (1815-1877); settled at Arbovale in Pocahontas County. (8) Joseph William Cooper (1823-1878), married 1st 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (1822-1863); married 2nd 1848 to Harriett A. Wade (1835-1869?); married 3rd 1869 to Mary E. Arboval (born 1845); settled at Green Bank in Pocahontas County. (9) Eliza Virginia Cooper (1825-1900), married 1849 to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828); settled at Dumore in Pocahontas County.

If you have old Cooper, McKemy, or Wooddell records, such as letters, Bibles, deeds, etc., concerning any of these families, I would certainly be grateful if you would write to me.

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

Since preparing the above statement, I have learned from two other Cooper searchers, to whom I am much indebted, that Wayne County, Kentucky, and Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana, are relevant:

1. Frederick Cooper was born in 1759 in York County, Pennsylvania, from which county he first served in the Revolution; in 1780, he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, where he served again; and in 1799 moved to Wayne County, Kentucky. Frederick Cooper (1759-) married in 1783 to Dorothy Brown, by whom he had the following children (with years of birth): Katy, 1784; Anne, 1786; Henry, 1790; John, 1793; William, 1795; Abraham, 1798; Isaac, 1805; and Jacob, 1808. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF FREDERICK COOPER?

2. James Cooper and wife Mary Werr were living in Blount County, Tennessee, when their son, Alexander Cooper, was born in 1817. In 1823, the family moved to Sullivan County, Indiana; in 1824, they moved to Vigo County, Indiana, where both James & Mary died in 1855. Alexander Cooper married Elizabeth McGriff in 1842, was a member of the Christian Church, and served two terms as county surveyor in Vigo County. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF JAMES COOPER (died 1855)? WHEN AND WHERE WAS JAMES BORN? DID JAMES AND MARY HAVE OTHER CHILDREN?

Several other miscellaneous notes seem worthy of inclusion in our summary of Cooper & McKemy families:

3. In 1795, James Cooper and wife Hannah of York County, Pennsylvania, conveyed to John McKemy of Augusta County, Virginia, for 110 pounds, 110 acres on both sides of the North River of "Shenando" in Augusta County. Witnesses: William McKemy, Eleanor McKemy, William Walker, Jr. WAS THIS JAMES COOPER THE JAMES COOPER (died during 1796-1807) WHO WAS A SON OF WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF PENNSYLVANIA?

Also, the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, contains the graves of a Hannah Cooper (1756-1822), Thomas J. Cooper (1797-1875) and wives Margaret & Elizabeth, and Martha Toot Cooper (1818-1871). WAS HANNAH COOPER THE WIFE OF JAMES COOPER?

4. According to a history of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, John Bradshaw (1758-1834) "married Miss Nancy McKemie, in the vicinity of Parnassus," before moving from Augusta County to Pocahontas County. WAS NANCY'S FULL NAME NANCY AGNES McKEMY? WAS SHE THE DAUGHTER AGNES MENTIONED IN THE WILL OF JOHN McKEMY (died 1789) OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, WHO ALSO MENTIONED A GRANDSON, JOHN BRADSHAW, IN HIS WILL?

5. The will of James McKemy, Sr., written in 1817 and probated in 1818 in Augusta County, Virginia, left to wife Agnes and the following children: James McKemy (who inherited his father's plantation), Jane McKemy ("one half of My Greenbrier plantation, consisting of more than Three Hundred acres"), Nancy Maghead, John McKemy, and Hiram. One clause states:

Again as to the law suit respecting the Negrows now depending in the state of N. Carolina, should the result prove favorable my will is that my son, James, should satisfy himself for his Tr. divide the Ballance equally among all

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY WAS THE SITE OF THE SUIT?

6. The Old Providence Church cemetery in Rockbridge County, Virginia, contains these four graves, lying consecutively in the same row: Robert Cooper (1738-1816); Susanna Cooper (1742-1817); John Cooper, died March 1, 1828, 57th year; and Margaret Cooper (1774-1847). I assume that John was the son of Robert & Susanna but, on the other hand, COULD HE HAVE BEEN THE JOHN COOPER (born about 1771) WHO WAS THE SON OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? Two other Cooper graves, some distance away, are in the cemetery: Susan A. H. Cooper (1778-1838), wife of Joseph Cooper; and Robert Cooper (1805-1840).

7. I have an incomplete note about a John Cooper who was born in 1777, Rockbridge County, Virginia; died 1861, Blendon, Ohio; served in the War of 1812; and married Polly Craig. WHOSE SON WAS HE?

A generous and keen-eyed friend found a connection between Cooper families in York County, Pennsylvania, and York County, South Carolina:

8. The will of a John Cooper, written in 1812, probated 1824 (place not determined), mentions the estate of his deceased father (not named in the will) in York County, Pennsylvania. John also names wife Elizabeth and children: Margaret, Robert, Elizabeth Davidson, William, John, and Mary Wallace. WHO WAS THE FATHER OF THIS JOHN COOPER?

This family is found again in the will of Robert Cooper, probated in 1842 in York County, South Carolina. Since his wife Mary predeceased, Robert left his estate to: John Cooper, a brother in Kentucky; James Cooper, a brother in Georgia; William Cooper, a brother in Tennessee; Mary Wallace, a sister in Virginia; Elizabeth Davidson, a sister in Yorkville, South Carolina, to have the plantation where Peter Harris lives; niece Jane Ferguson of Kentucky, daughter of brother John; niece Elizabeth Powell of Virginia, daughter of sister Mary Wallace; niece Mary Eliza Alston and her two children of South Carolina; nephews Robert Cooper and John Cooper of Tennessee, sons of brother William. Mentions his plantation in York County, South Carolina, "where Stephen Belk lives."

POCAHONTAS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

"THE POCAHONTAS TIMES "
January 1, 1976 to December 31st, 1976. With some extra pages from the desk and files of the writer.

Vol.1
of
Four.

- 1st. Book for writer.
- 2nd. Book for Editor Times.
- 3rd. Book for P.C.H.S.
- 4th. Book for Maude Waugh's Family collection.

Note: It is expected that I might collect four books this Bicentennial year and distribute as above.

Glen L. Vaughan
Lt. U.S.N. (Ret).
400 Melvin Avenue
Annapolis, Md.
21401

POCARONTAS IN APPALACHIA

All of us Hillbillies that were born and grew up on the ridges, in the valleys, hills and hollows, the Greenbrier Valley and river - especially in the confines of Pocahontas County can never forget the states Magazine, "Wonderful West Virginia, Almost Heaven".

All the scenes and views of their early teenage years and on through manhood. There is something wonderful there that forever brings our memories back to the times of our early years.

One remembers all the wonderful men and women who helped us over the rough spots, our Sunday School teachers, Graded and High School teachers and staff.

Especially us young teenagers who needed advise and help from our alders on survival in the woods on hunting and camping trips. Many of these men will be mentioned in detail later in this set of books.

Men like Mr. Calvin Price, G.D. McNeill, Ed. Richardson, Mr. C.J. Richardson, (My Sunday school Teacher), Mr. Ira Brill, Ed. Moore, S.K. Hench, Clawson McNeill, Mr. O.H. Kee, J.W. Yeager, Dr. Norman Price, Mr. David Lang, J. Buckley and his Brother Ralph. These and many more that will come to mind during the coming months. There will be women too - as there were many who were always ready to help young people.

Some present day writers write that us mountain people always have to be ready to prove to our neighbors and those on the outside that we are capable in our chosen fields - my way of thinking is that all we have to prove is to ourselves that we can stand on our own feet. Believe in yourself is all thats needed.

GLV.



This is a picture of the Boy Scout Troop in the 1917 Fourth of July Parade.

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24954, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year. Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1976

Donation

Lt. USN (Ret.) Glen L. Vaughan has sent to us a thick notebook filled with copies of his large historical collection of papers concerning the Waugh family, things relating to Pocahontas County, and items connected with his long and honorable service in the U. S. Navy. These will go in the Pocahontas County Historical Museum.

He is preparing to make an additional donation of books to the Pocahontas County High School library.

We have a 1922 Oddfellows picture. Mr. Vaughan sent that needs some people identified. If someone is familiar with those people, please come in and help us.

As we were glancing through the book our eyes found this item which is appropriate for Boy Scout week.

"When I was thirteen Mr. Calvin Price (we never called him Cal like every one else) and Mr. Douglas McNeill organized Pocahontas County's first Boy Scout troop. I belonged to the Beaver Patrol along with Denny Lynch, Guy Yeager, Clark Carter, Walter Mason, Winfield Hobart, Charlie Camper, Lawrence Kennison. We met in the basement of the Presbyterian Church weekly and one of our first tasks was to earn the money for our outfits, uniforms, handbook, knife, etc., all this came to the grand total of \$12.75. All of our field trips and camping expeditions up and down the river were on foot." (Ed. This must have been 1915.)

POCAHONTAS TIMES

Marlinton Graded School

(Page 2)

1907-1914

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia, 24564, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year. Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, NOV. 20, 1914

I started in the Marlinton Graded School in the fall term of 1907. The first few weeks (2-6) of the first grade were held in the dining room of the old Dilley Hotel on the Knappa Creek bank across the street from the Methodist Church. Then we transferred to the new building without its outdoor plunching. The First Grade teacher was Miss Anna Wallace; many, many people of Marlinton owe their start to this great teacher. This was the second room on the left going in, at the bottom of the stairway leading to the second floor.

1908 and across the hall to the Second Grade to a Miss Beckett, a small, stout lady but a good teacher.

1909 the Third Grade—first room to the right on entering, teacher was Miss Sally Cromwell, whose father was also a teacher. She was married around 1911 or 1912. The Cromwells lived in the Andy Thomas house on Lower Camden Avenue, across the street from where Clyde Moore lived.

1910 and across the hall to the Fourth Grade which was taught by Miss Anna Lee Ervine, a sister-in-law of Dr. Kramer, the dentist. Miss Ervine was a fine teacher but strict.

1911 "upstairs" to the fifth Grade, first room at the left of the stairs and Miss Catherine Ervine, one of my best teachers, so far. Miss Ervine had classes one night a week in her home for the pupils that needed help. Miss Ervine started me off on history research and geography.

1912-1913-1914, the auditorium had been divided into two or three rooms by then and three years in these two rooms with teachers: Mr. Elliot Smith (son of Grant Smith); Mrs. Faith Baxter, who I believe was a widow in her early thirties, and both rooms were supervised by the great "George Douglas McNeil." Mr. Elliot handed out the punishments and many were the students that had to attend school in the Methodist Church, taught by Rev. Bean and later by Rev. Keen, father of Clark, William and Ruth.

Much later when the High School was built, the Eighth Grade was held there with Miss Sadie Chambers, from Kentucky, as teacher.

Just a note on Mrs. Ward's article—Miss Minnie Jane Merrell was also head football coach as well as principal. She won a few games, too.

Lieut. Glen L. Vaughan, U. S. Navy (Ret.)

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24964, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year. Elsewhere \$6.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

Madam Editor of the Pocahontas Times!

I have been so happy to see the historical sketches in the Times, especially regarding the Marlinton Graded School, and the reference I found to my mother in Ret. Navy Lt. Glen Vaughan's letter: "1908 and across the hall to the Second Grade to a Miss Beckett, a small, stout lady but a good teacher."

My mother died when I was very young, but her pictures always showed her to be small and slender, with curly black hair... which I deeply regretted I didn't inherit. I've wondered who in Pocahontas County still living might have gone to school to her, or remembers her.

I've met one of her students: Pleas Richardson (Mrs. Roy Campbell of Huntington) had my mother as her third grade teacher, and went home with her to Pickaway in Monroe County for a visit during summer vacation. What a thrill it was to hear a firsthand account of her these many years later, from Mrs. Campbell who also told me of meeting my mother's beau that summer. He later became my father. I was pleased Mrs. Campbell had thought my mother was so pretty.

I walked into C. J. Richardson's Hardware Store about four years ago and asked Mr. Charles if he remembered my father—Mr. Bob Steele from Alderson who sold V-C fertilizer through southern W. Va.... and into Pocahontas Co. He replied, "Your mother... she stayed with us the two years she taught in Marlinton...in the house that's now the Pocahontas Co. Museum."

Several people, even in the Historical Society, told me that was a mistake—the Richardson's house was next door...they didn't know that the Richardsons lived in the Museum house while their present home was being built.

My mother's only sister, now 87, living in Dayton, told me mother rode the train from Ronceverte to Marlinton...and taught in the new school building there.

Some of you know how I wished that old building could have been preserved as a historic landmark, useful as a community center or for shops, farmers' market or business offices, continuing Marlinton's beautiful old red brick distinctiveness. It's gone now. We'll have to rely on word pictures for the past, and thanks to Lt. Vaughan for his contribution.

Sincerely,

Virginia Steele
(Teacher of Homebound and Hospitalized Students, Kg through 12th grade, Berkeley, California, and trying to get back to Pocahontas County)

OCT. 30, 1975



Letter

I read with interest "Miss Pearl's" recollections of the Marlinton Grade School. I'm sure that by now someone has remembered that Mr. R. B. Williams was a principal prior to Mr. Grant Smith. Mr. Williams was in charge in 1919. He was my first principal and he made quite an impression on me my first day of school. Mr. Grant Smith was my last principal. There may have been one or more in between, I can't recall. I am looking forward to Miss Nancy's article.

Best Wishes,
Meade L. Waugh

Marlinton Graded School

The Marlinton Graded School brick building was erected in 1906 and just weeks the ground was leveled after the building had been torn down by Tom Pratt.

We have been trying to get the history of the school. Pearl Carter Ward was a student in the "new" school and we asked her to remember all she could.

Nancy McNeel Currence, always a good source of information, has jotted down all the things she remembers and was told about Marlinton School.

From Mrs. Ward:

The first schoolhouse in Marlinton was a one-room building on the bank of Knapps Creek, about where the old Winter building stood. Mr. John S. Moore, father of Mrs. Mabel Hudson, Mrs. Majorie Roberts and the late Mrs. Lucy M. Brill and Clyde Moore, was teacher.

Mrs. Grace (Andrew) Price conducted a private school in her home. She had two daughters, Margaret and Agnes, whom she was teaching. With her two daughters, she added six others to her group: Pauline Schumaker, Katherine Irvine, Arden Killingsworth, Gertrude Wilson, Pearl Carter, and another girl.

When the Marlinton Graded School was built, comprising of six rooms and one large auditorium reaching across the front of the building on the second floor—stage facing the hill, the one room school was closed and Mrs. Price discontinued her classes. All these pupils entered the Marlinton Grade School.

Some of the early teachers were Miss Anna Wallace, a Mrs. Johnson, wife of supervisor at the Tannery, Miss Sallie Wilson, a Mr. Chapman, Miss Virginia Shields, Mr. Lanty Moore, Mrs. Nora Burns, Miss Anna Sullivan.

Principals were: Mr. L. W. Burns, 1907—1912; Mr. A. D. Givens, 1912—1913; Mr. C. B. Cornwell, 1913—1915; Mr. T. M. Martin, 1915—1916.

Miss Minnie Jane Morrels was principal while high school classes were held in the Court House and probably was principal of Graded School also. If anyone knows of another principal before Grant Smith, please let us know.

After Grant Smith was William Smith, then J. Z. Johnson, N. E. Whitman, Alice Waugh, and Robert Keases at the present time.

E. D. King was the builder of the Marlinton School Building in 1906. The Board of Education

consisted of Andrew Price, president, A. E. Smith, J. E. Barlow, J. H. Patterson, secretary.

Mr. L. W. Burns and Miss Blanche Smith taught subjects required for two years high school. These classes were held in the auditorium. Desks were arranged on the stage for classes, then removed for any type of entertainment. Among those students were Paul Overholt, Arden Killingsworth, Charles Richardson, Pauline Schumaker, Katherine Irvine, Wilbur Sharp, and Grace Sheets.

In 1914, the auditorium was replaced by three classrooms. Mr. Cornwell conducted high school classes. Miss Lucille McClintic taught languages.

At the end of the two year course, those whose parents were financially able sent their sons and daughters to various colleges.

In the spring of 1916, four students, Amy Burns, Joe Burns, Pearl Carter and Clyde East, were graduated from a three-year high school course, the first graduating class from Marlinton High School as well as the last.

In the spring of 1916, a bond was floated to build the Edray District High School.

Only one of the four graduates, Pearl Carter, was left to enter the fourth year offered by the new school. (Amy began teaching, Joe entered the seminary to study for the ministry, and Clyde had finished school.)

In the fall of 1916, Miss Minnie Jane Merrills assumed the principalship of the high school. School was conducted in the County Court House. During terms of court classes were held in the basement of the Marlinton Presbyterian Church.

Classes were conducted in 1916-1917 by Miss Merrills, Miss Dorothy Guy, and a Mr. Harvey.

Two graduates emerged in May 1917, Pearl Carter and William D. Keene, the son of the Methodist minister. These were the first two graduates from Edray District High School.

Prior to the one-room school a private school for the family of Mr. Andrew McLaughlin was conducted in the McLaughlin home which is now the apartment property of the late Arden Killingsworth. Miss Anna Wallace was the private teacher. There were one or two other students besides the McLaughlin family—the late Mrs. Lena Moore Baxter and Mrs. Levia Gibson Carter.

Next we will print Mrs. Currence's recollections.

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)
Published every Thursday except
the last week of the year.
Entered at the Post Office at Mar-
linton, West Virginia, 24964, as
second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES:
In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 1975

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

From Mrs. Currence:

In 1890 Col. John T. McGraw, of Grafton, purchased farms known as Martins Bottom for the town site. He was a promoter and it is interesting to read of the fight to move the County seat from Huntersville to Marlinton. They didn't know whether the B&O or the C&O would go through Marlinton.

1891, Town laid off in lots.

1900, Town incorporated and Andrew Price first mayor.

1900, C&O train.

1899, First bank—Bank of Marlinton.

1880, First school established in Price Hollow, on land given by Andrew McLaughlin. McLaughlins, Moores, Keas, Prices and Johnsons attended the school. Some of the teachers in that school were: Judge George W. McClintic, Dr. William T. Price, Montgomery Matthews, Miss Emma Warwick, J. W. Price, John McLaughlin, John S. Moore, Uriah Bird, and Charles Cook. (Charles Cook was a graduate of Brown University and came south during Civil War as one of Mosby's Men and married in Edray.) Teachers received \$18 or \$25 per month for a three or four month school. School was often held in summer months.

Early 1900's, the "new" school was built and was the building across from the Marlinton United Methodist Church which was recently torn down.

1897, \$2,759 paid all the teachers in the District.

Among the teachers in this school were: Mrs. Verdie B. Mann, Mrs. Rella F. Yeager, Dora Brownlee, Annie V. King, J. L. Tipton (Washington and Lee graduate), Horace Lockridge, John Sydenstricker, Mary Frances McNulty (Mochar of Nancy Currence), T. D. Moore, Davis Barlow, Sallie W. Wilson, and Judge Summers H. Sharp.

1890-91, A. M. Byrd established a school to teach advanced studies. He ran it like a military school and they used Confederate uniforms and muskets in their drills. It was in the old Harlow Wagh building that used to be near the river bridge across from the Hospital.

1906, Brick Marlinton Graded School was built.

1907, L. W. Burns established first High School. Two year course. This was held in the old Marlinton Graded School auditorium. The auditorium at that time was the two front rooms on the second floor; the stage was on the side toward the hill. The two teachers were L. W. Burns and Miss Blanche Smith (Mrs. S. R. Neel). Mr. Burns was paid \$125 and Miss Smith \$80, so Mr. Burns paid her \$15 extra out of his salary. The next year the Board paid her \$75. (Mrs. S. R. Neel told this to Nancy Currence many years ago.)

Principals of High School were: L. W. Burns, A. D. Givens, of Parkersburg, one year, C. B. Cornwall, of Jackson County. In 1914 T. M. Martin, of Martinsburg, was principal and he left to join the army. Miss Minnie Jane Merrells, of Buchanan, V. G. Emory, Wheeling, C. J. Ramsey, C. D. McNeill, H. A. Yeager, Fred Smith, who was also principal of the new Pocahontas County High School.

Teachers in the High School included Miss Elizabeth Roads, Miss Thea Seymour, Miss Lillian Louka, Ethel Shugrow, who taught music for \$20; she was from Ronceverte and gave private lessons, too; Miss Guasman, Home Economics, and Miss Emma Myers, Commerce.

1916, Citizens voted 359 to 188 to build a new high school, cost not to exceed \$10,000. During this time, high school classes were held in the Court House.

1916, First graduate.
1926, New addition to High School built, \$40,000.

At one time, a dormitory for female students and teachers was planned but didn't get past the discussion period.



Marlinton, W. Va. (New School Building), 1907 Retained

Elliot Smith was principal of Marlinton Graded School during World War I, then T. E. Walker for one year and then Grant Smith. Mrs. Lena Kennedy tells us:

T. E. Walker was principal of Marlinton Graded School in 1920-21, the year before Grant Smith became principal, according to Mrs. S.H. Barlow.

More History.
I was reading in the Times about the School Building being torn down. I have some recollections of that myself.

First I went to the School in the building over near the Creek to Miss Georgia Shearer, then to Miss Sallie Wilson; I remember that so well—she used a ruler on my hand. Also Davis Barlow and Summers Sharp taught there.

I also remember when some of the boys from the west side set tacks in Mr. Barlow's chair.

I went to school to Miss Virginia Shields in 1910, and finished Free School under Mr. Moore. There were 23 girls and 3 boys in the class; a boy I don't remember, Clyde East and myself.

I have been thinking of adding a little to the write-up about the organizing of the officers in 1900.

Mother had a flock of geese that she brought down from the Big Spring property, that is where the upper fish hatchery now is. Police Anderson's first act of policing was to take the geese to the lockup, and Mom told him he could keep them; the next morning the geese were home.

While I am in the mood I have been thinking about a story about some man you mentioned a while back seeing a panther on Gauley Mountain.

In 1905 or 1906 Mr. Brown Yeager went to my Dad to get a rig to haul a surveying crew to near Slatyfork, to survey Gauley Mountain for West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. Dad had no drivers available, so he put the crew and supplies in a 3 seat rig and put me in as driver. We went to the run that goes off 219 to Sharps Knob, went to the head of the hollow, pitched camp, and about 9 p.m. a panther came down and put on a screaming show that stood my hair on end, and a colored cook was whiter than snow; the horses charged and snorted until one of the men had to get out and hold them.

Next morning I was so glad to get out of there; they got me hooked up and started; I went down to the river, had to make a short turn right to get up in to the road; there I upset the rig, tied the horses to a bush, walked back and got the men to get me into the road.

June, I am convinced there are no panthers in these mountains now, as I have driven all of them at all hours, and there are hundreds of people camping in every hollow in all the woods in the State. Have never heard of a panther screaming that any one ever mentioned.

Four of us kids went to Toa Creek fishing in 1910 or 12 and lay out one night. A panther came off the mountain and gave us a concert, we yelled, threw fire sticks, shot up a box of 22 short shells, and never slept, but moved fast the first sign of light.

Claude E. McLaughlin
211 Church Street
Lewisburg
West Virginia 24901

P 8

Bernard Harrison, of Atlantic City, was here this week to visit his cousin, Mrs. Paul Overholt. He stopped by the Times Office and we had a most interesting talk. His father, A. M. Harrison, had a general department store beside the Royal Drug Store and old Bank of Marlinton. The store was destroyed by fire in 1902 when most of Marlinton burned, then was rebuilt, and they sold out to Kleins in 1909, and this was later Schuchats Store. The elder Mr. Harrison worked for Paul Golden, who was his brother-in-law, for six months before he opened his own store. Bernard Harrison has two brothers and a sister who were born in Marlinton. Mr. Harrison himself was born in Baltimore; he attended school in the home of Mrs. Andrew Price and then in the school by the creek. He remembers a mouse running around in the school by the creek with Mr. John Moore teacher, and also the stage curtain catching fire at a Christmas program in the "new" Graded School.

Editor of Pocahontas Times

Your editorial in June 26 Times was very interesting.

My mother, Mrs. Ada Grimes, of Huntersville, gave the Bradshaw Bible to William T. Price several years ago when he was writing the history of the County residents. Bradshaw's daughter, Mrs. Samuel Hogsett, was my great-great-grandmother, the mother of Renick Hogsett, of Huntersville, who still owned two farms on Browns Creek; formerly owned by his grandfather Bradshaw; the land around Huntersville and on Browns Creek for many years was owned by Bradshaw's relatives, Moores and McLaughlins. I am 73 years old now, but when I was a kid almost everyone I knew was a cousin. Charlie Moore, our nearest neighbor on Browns Creek, married a tiny woman who gave him fourteen children; three of his daughters were the only school teachers I ever had (Grace, Beulah and Madge). In those days we never had any newcomers to the community of farmers. I am surprised and distressed at the crime reported in the Pocahontas Times, now. In the old days nobody locked their doors. The only stealing I ever heard of was shortly after my folks had made their cane molasses; some one took a gallon or so from the cellar. Mother was very distressed, not by the loss but by the fact the part they stole was to be improved by more boiling; if she gave anyone anything or if they stole it she wanted it to be the best.

The old schoolhouse on Browns Creek (now probably gone) was the scene of many revivals. The old time Methodists were strict, but nosiy, when the shouthing began. Lamps were hanging from nails in the walls and candle flies or moths were having a field

one old preacher who yelled and threw his arms like crazy, got choked on one; he vomited on the pulpit. My father who was also a Methodist minister, was sitting on the pulpit. I asked him after we returned home why he did not laugh like everyone else; he said, "You laughed enough for us both." During the confusion my sister played the organ (a foot pump type), asked the choir to sing and eventually everything got back to normal. In those days we children were not allowed to go any place except church. My grandfather, once a year, sneaked me to Marlinton to a circus; he loved the clowns (and the oranges which could only be bought on trains and at the circus). We were in disgrace on our return home, and many prayers were offered for our sins. I loved the circus as any nine year old would. I came home with seashell necklaces and other trinkets (no dime stores anywhere then). We went in a road wagon, took our lunch, and picked up the neighbors and their children as we drove the ten miles to Marlinton. One of the highlights of the trip was the conversations after Joe Buzzard joined us riding his mule. He was a great church man and political ambitions had acquainted

9
county. My grandfather was not a church man; although his brother, Wellington Hogsett, who lived at Mill Point, was a preacher, grandfather did not believe in anything he couldn't see, and didn't believe in some things he could see. He was never convinced the first airplane that crossed the mountains near his home in those early years was carrying the mail. He saw the dust storms after the first World War but he never believed they were coming thousands of miles from the wheat fields of the West. He never believed there were caverns that people could walk in. He lived to be almost 90 years old. I regret now that I did not take him to Front Royal Virginia, and let him see the wonders of all the beautiful caverns in Virginia.

I am a widow now, I live with my daughter who works for NBC in broadcasting here in Washington, D. C. My other daughter is a supervisor with Allegheny Airlines at Washington National Airport, and my son has 2 music stores and sells Hammond organs and pianos.

Vera Ritchie

7423 Allan Ave.

Falls Church, Va.

22046

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.
Returned at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24984, second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES:
In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$6.00 a year, in advance.

NAME PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 1975

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

County History

We got started on Marlinton school history, then came the opera house, and this week we have some more recollections.

One of the Bicentennial Committee's projects is to bring Pocahontas County history up to date. We ask that every community gather together what history has been written and bring it up to date. We will print it in parts as you seek to get it or when it is finished.

This is a history of Marlinton printed in the Pocahontas Times in 1923.

First Things in Marlinton

The first settler was Jacob Marlin; and from him the town got its name. He was here in 1749, and nobody knows how much earlier. The place was first called Marlin's Bottom. Changed in 1887 to Marlinton at the request of a Mrs. Skyles who moved here from Baltimore and who objected to the word Bottom as not being a nice word. The old timers were horrified when they found that the name had been changed on them over night, so to speak, but the damage was done, and all appeals to Congress failed to undo the harm. The lady soon afterwards moved away but she left us christened with a new name.

About twenty years ago the town almost unanimously petitioned Washington to change the name to McGraw. This change of name was refused because there was a postoffice in West Virginia by the name of McGraws. And so the name continues to be Marlinton, and it would be a bold bad citizen who would suggest a change of name now that a large and important town has developed under it, and has succeeded in acquiring more "good will" than any of the important centers of West Virginia.

The first court that I know of being held here was under an oak tree on the west side of the river above the bridge by Squire G. M. Kee. The first lawyer ever heard plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder, a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. And he was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic, who is still with us, and who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in June or October, 1893. The election to move the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton was held in the fall of 1891, and a building at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street was erected which is still called the Temporary Court house. The judge was Judge A. N. Campbell, of

Monroe county. He was a great lawyer. He was of commanding appearance. Over six feet tall, with a heavy black beard. He weighed three hundred and fifteen pounds.

The first sheriff of the county lived here, Major William Poage. His house was near Eleventh Street on Camden Avenue. In this house was born James A. Moffet, who was in his lifetime the president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. The first postmaster was James Ataly Price. The first student to go to college from this place was the late Rev. Wm. T. Price, A.B., A.M., D.D., who was born here in 1830, and who departed this life here at the age of ninety-one years.

The first recorded land title was 480 acres taking in a great part of the level land which dates from a survey made in 1761, by Gen. Andrew Lewis. This land is mentioned in his will as being at the mouth of Ewings Creek, by which name Knapps Creek was first known. Too much cannot be made of this fact that Gen. Andrew Lewis owned the heart of this town from 1761 to his death some thirty years afterwards. He was a great general of the Revolutionary War, and George Washington was his fidus Achates. In those early days of Washington's life, there can be no doubt that this was one of his most familiar haunts.

The first bank to be established was the Bank of Marlinton, followed in a few weeks by the Pocahontas Bank, which afterwards became the First National.

11

The first newspaper was The Times. The first store was opened by J. R. Apperson in a house now occupied as a dwelling which stands directly opposite the entrance of the bridge on the west side of the river.

The first business of any kind established here was a combined sawmill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil war and which was located in the low place called the slough along the boulevard leading to Campbelltown, just opposite the home of A. C. Pifer.

It was run by water power, and the water came from Stony Creek. An effort to augment this power by water from the Greenbrier River from an intake just below the mouth of Stony Creek failed, and the plant itself was washed away in the flood of 1877, which is the highest water of which there is any authentic record.

This mill was in charge of a man by the name of James E. A. Gibbs, who was a man of the tenant class, and who barely made a living for himself and a large family. In fact the main remembrance that the older people had of the family was the struggle that they had to keep from starving. It was during this time that Gibbs was working on his model for a sewing machine. He fashioned a working model out of wood from a laurel root, which developed the idea of the chain stitch sewing machine, which entitles him to the claim of being an inventor of first order. The lock stitch idea was adver-

tised some few years earlier, but it did not entitle the inventor to the distinction of being the inventor of the sewing machine, for the people of this vicinity know the Gibbs' idea antedated the lock stitch, and was on a different idea. Gibbs carried his invention to the north and formed a partnership with a mechanic by the name of Wilcox, and the manufacture of the machines began. Gibbs returned home, the Civil war broke out, the Gibbs family starved almost and at the end of five years Gibbs got back to Delaware, and found that Wilcox was turning out sewing machines at a great rate, and that the share of Gibbs had been put to his credit regularly in a bank, and from that time Gibbs was rich. In the nineties Gibbs came back for several visits. He was a very tall man—about six feet and seven inches, I think, wore a silk hat, and had the biggest nose that I ever saw on a human being. He said at that time he had taken out some one hundred and sixty three patents. The Wilcox & Gibbs sewing machine is still one of the standard machines offered to the public, and I believe it is considered the very best for heavy sewing, such as leather. I am not sure about this.

One of the earliest stores was opened by Paul Golden who is still with us though not in the mercantile business. A sign that he had painted on the store in his early days caused some hilarity among the nations in the world. It read: "Go no farther to be Cheated." The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has the right to be grouped under the head of Commercial Candor.

The first school of which there is any authentic record was opened in a log cabin that stood near Riverside. It closed after a session or two. It was a private enterprise. There must have been some school earlier than that for one of the fields on Stony Creek has always been called the School House Meadow. Up to the eighties, the nearest school was Huntersville. In the eighties, the free school system having been established, a one room frame building was put up on the Price Run where the house of William Stewart now stands. Miss Emma Warwick, Judge Geo. W. McClintic, County Superintendent, W. M. Mathews, Rev. Dr. Price, Squire Charles Cook, from Rhode Island, were some of the noted persons who taught in that little school house. The next school was a two room building, still standing, as the Ira Irvine building on the banks of Knapps Creek. The next was the present graded school building, a substantial brick, which has become too small though augmented by a still finer high school property. We had a great time building that eight roomed brick graded school, and there were many that predicted that there never would be a time when there was need of one half such a building. In fact even in that comparative recent time, it was very

TWO LINES MISSING.

X

The first teacher's institute was held in 1886 in the Presbyterian Church. The first church built was the Presbyterian church on the site of the present building. The first resident judge of the court, Judge S. H. Sharp. The first mayor of the town, Andrew Price. The first state senator, N. C. McNeil. The first Presidential Elector, Col. O. H. Kee. The first delegate to the legislature, L. M. McClintic. The first member of the county court, Dr. N. R. Price. The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive at Marlinton was in the year 1900, on the completion of the track laying to this point. It was made a public ceremony and some thousands gathered here and they barbecued beef and had a celebration. They told at Ronceverte that night that when the train got here that the great crowd gathered around the locomotive, and that the engineer requested them to give him room to turn his train around and that they cleared a space of some acres. It was not true. Not even an original lie. Only a localized anecdote.

But for excitement over first events let me refer you to the first jail delivery, when Armstrong and Cumberland got out of jail at dusk one evening in the nineties. The jail had been completed and it was the modern idea of a strong jail, and it was confidently expected that it would hold anybody. The county had suffered a series of bold robberies, and suspicion had attached to Alex Armstrong, an intelligent colored man, a native of this county, who had removed

to an Ohio town. It was thought that he raided this county regularly, and that he would come to the nearest railroad station, and make a quick trip into the county and return with his booty. This belief was so sure that the authorities waited and watched for him to return, and he showed up one winter day traveling incognito with a big burly strange negro. R. K. Burns arrested them, and they were indicted, and afterwards convicted of the robbery of Capt. A. M. Edgar, held up at the point of a revolver in his own house after nightfall.

They lulled the jailer into a sense of security and when they got between him and the door of the cage, they shut the door and left and got away. A large force of volunteers assembled in an hour or so and patrolled the roads all night, and found nothing. But the elements warred against the fugitives. It was summer time, but the night saw one of the heaviest rainfalls that this country ever experienced. The accused travelled many miles that night but they lost their way and daylight found them about two miles from town. They had wandered all night, confused by the great tempest and the network of streams. They were exhausted. They took cover in the old Hamlin Chapel, on Stony Creek. They got as far as Laurel Creek about ten miles from Marlinton and surrendered to a volunteer posse and were brought in. They were pretty well starved.

Some of us old residents have never had a residence in any other town or city. And we feel that the only way that you can really know a town is to see it built. With the exception of the toll house and the McLaughlin house, I have seen every house built in this town. If I have not overlooked some odd house or two in a hasty mental survey, Yes a part of the B. M. Yeager house is older than that. That is a good deal to say for a town as substantial as Marlinton, with its court-house, bank buildings, school buildings, and churches. Especially the Methodist church now in the course of erection which will be one of the notable buildings of the State.

I often think of one of my boy friends many years ago saying that he had had a dream. That he seemed on top of Elk Mountain looking down over Marlins Bottom, and the bottom appeared to be roofed over. That is one dream that has come to pass.

(Page 2)

POCAHONTAS TIMES

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.
Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24954, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$2.50 a year.
Elsewhere \$3.50 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 1970

Reprinted from November 1934
Times

Green Bank Land Grants

Green Bank, W. Va.
October 23, 1934

Dear Cal:

Some time ago you asked me to write you a list or something concerning the original patents or land grants of the Green Bank community; I have forgotten which particular grants you mentioned, but, however, I will give you a list of the original Land Grants that are adjacent, and contiguous, and run with common lines, and are situated on the waters of the North Fork and Deer Creek, and should figure largely in the local history of the Green Bank community.

We don't know the exact date, but sometime long before the Revolutionary War, a dauntless band of pioneers possessed of adventurous spirits

crossed the Allegheny Mountains and from the summit of one of the loftiest peaks, where until then the foot of a white man had never trod, they viewed the vast expanse of the level land and forest of the Deer Creek Valley; returning probably to quaint old Williamsburg, they told of the wonderful discovered country which is now the Green Bank community, and thus opened the way for the venturesome pioneer who was destined to overcome difficulties and build homes in the Deer Creek Valley. But several years had passed when one day about 1765, the figure of a stalwart, broad-shouldered man could have been seen standing top of the wild and rugged knoll, which reach its rocky bluff high above the North Fork Creek, a short distance east of the junction of the North Fork and Deer Creek. He no doubt was alone save for the companionship of a long rifle which he leaned upon as he contemplated the glorious scenes that stretched before him, as he forecast the future of the beautiful landscape. This lone pioneer was John Warwick. He was one of those daring men who, as the tide of emigration started westward, had left his friends and family and after many days of hunting and exploring, reached the junction of North Fork and Deer Creek.

The scene so impressed John Warwick that he concluded to build a home and found a settlement on the waters of Deer Creek. After taking a tomahawk right of possession, which consisted of blazing a few trees and building a rude shack, he set out for his home in East Virginia to tell his people of the magnificent country he had discovered.

Immediately with his three sons, Andrew, John, Jr., and William, he persuaded a large number of settlers to accompany him to the Deer Creek Valley; the country through which they passed was one tangled almost impenetrable forest; the ax of the pioneer was never sounded in this region where every mile of the way might harbor some danger from the Indians; these pioneers knew not the meaning of fear; the war whoop of the Indians and the twang of the bow and arrow were familiar sounds to them. The old pole ax wielded by strong arms soon cleared some land and reared stout log cabins within the radius of three or four miles. Then new settlers moved in and the settlement began to grow and flourish, and the Red men began to be troublesome; some settlers were shot, and bands of hostile Indians prowled around and made it very dangerous.

An attack from the Indians was apprehended and the settlers determined to build a Fort as a defense for the infant settlement which was planned by Jacob Warwick and named for him, but was built by the people of the community; as a rule the old Indian Forts were built in the shape of a parallelogram. Peter Warwick told me that his grandfather said this fort was in circular form, and that the roof was covered with sods and dirt to prevent fire from the enemy. The white oak walls bristled with port holes and surrounded by a stockade fence presented an almost impregnable defense. This fort was used as a home for some of the settlers who often lived for weeks inside its walls.

For many years it remained a famous Fort on the frontier, having withstood several Indian attacks. The fort was situated in the forks of North Fork and Deer Creek on an elevation of ground that com-

manded a fine view of the surrounding country, now in west end of a field of F. H. Warwick. Mr. Warwick told me he had hauled several wagon loads of rock from the foundation and chimney of the old Fort.

The month of June, 1780 must have been a very busy time for the early settlers of the Green Bank Community, due to the fact that they were surveying out their lands to secure grants or patents. It appears that there had been no surveying done prior to the Revolutionary War. June 7, 1780, is the date of the first survey as shown in the Augusta Grant Book No. 1, in the Auditors' Office at Charleston, which was made for Jacob Warwick for 340 acres. June 8, 1780, James McCartee, 215 acres. June 9, 1780, William Nottingham, 200 acres. June 10, 1780, James Rucker, 361 acres. June 11, 1780, James Rucker, Jr., 345 acres. June 12, 1780, Jacob Gillaspie, 400 acres. June 12, 1780, Thomas Jarvis, 400 acres. June 13, 1780, Thomas Cartmill, 358 acres. August 8, 1782, William Warwick 900 acres. Abraham Ingram, November 15, 1785, 188 acres. William Taylor, 1785, 230 acres. Godlip Hartman 1795, 318 acres. All these grants are recorded in Augusta County Grant Book No. 1, and Grants issued to James McKamey, James Kerney, John Warwick, Joseph Wooddel, Thomas Coberly, Thomas Wooddel, William Warwick, Daniel Kerr, James Munson, Benona Griffin and Samuel Fullman are found recorded in Bath County, Book No. 1. This brings us up to 1795, when the speculators and land sharks began to secure grants for large tracts of land in the Allegheny Mountains bordering on the new settlements, which was Bath County at

that time. A grant for 44,000 acres was issued to Thomas Wilson in 1795. This tract of land lies between the town of Marlinton, including the town of Dunmore and near the site of the old Cross Road School House below Green Bank and running through the loop of Deer Creek above Cass, most of it being on the East Side of the Greenbrier River. This entire tract was sold for a direct tax being levied by the Federal government, on the 14th day December, 1802, by the United States Marshall for the District of Virginia, and bought by Simpson Matthews for the sum of five dollars and one cent. On November 1, 1817, Simpson Matthews employed Samuel D. Poage to make a division of the 44,000 acre tract, the line to begin at a point on Arthur Grimes land, pass a high point of rocks on Michael Mountain which is about three hundred yards west of the Lookout Tower on the Michael Mountain and passes near the CCC Camps on the Brown Creek road on July 1, 1818. Simpson Matthews conveyed by deed the west end of the survey of 9600 acres to John Moore, Andrew Ervino, James Waugh, Arthur and Charles Grimes. The east end of the tract was disposed of by the Matthews and Jacob Warwick.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Meeks, of Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Waugh, and her grandmother, Mrs. Maude Waugh, during the holidays. They were omitted from their list of guests to last week's paper.

Fred Smith, Leafe Montgomery and Veal Haynes were another group that attended the Peach Bowl game in Atlanta.

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24964, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 1976

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

History of

Hillsboro Community

(Pocahontas County)

By Mary Isetta Wallace

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert and named in honor of a family by that name which settled there in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina, who built his home on a good farm in the neighboring Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. Simon Girty, the renegade, told that Indians were so impressed with the fine display of the home of Mr. Hill that they called him white man's king.

The house was built of hewed logs, and the space between filled with wood, mortar or mud, and then white washed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys, and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill and, because of his sterling worth, "will sing his requiem as long as its waters flow." The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice sixty or more feet high forming a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffey's Creek named after the first settler, John Bruffey, son of Patrick Bruffey, the pioneer, a revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time of flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop Mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. Bruffey's Creek forms Hughes Creek and after sinking and partly sinking for two miles, empties into the Blue Hole. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill founded their homes in the Hillsboro Community.

The majority of the people of Hillsboro Community are of Scotch-Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets and at the present time under the stimulus of our county agent, Mr. H. C. C. Willey, the farmers are becoming thoroughly aroused to the importance of purebred stock.

As the traveler ascends by an easy climb and gentle undulations the winding road cut on the face of Droop Mountain he beholds a panorama of unsurpassed loveliness when the sun pours his effulgent warmth and brightness over the mountains, plains, valleys and hills as they unite in proclaiming "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." He also beholds

historic ground, for it was at the foot of Droop Mountain where General Averill with 5000 men pitched their tents before the Battle of Droop Mountain which began on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. John Jordan of pioneer fame gave a building site to the Methodist church which was destroyed by fire and they have since built four other churches in the community and now worship in a very comfortable, commodious building in the town of Hillsboro. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1796 he had made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country coming up through Greenbrier County each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnon home where he was received "gladly" and entertained "kindly" in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeel home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year of 1793. The early records of the Church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in which this sect worshipped for many years was later built southeast of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the Church was reorganized and Josiah Beard, Davis Poague, and John Jordan were elected elders. The most distinguished ministers who served this Church from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchell B. Dunlap, and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

A new church, a frame building, was built in the town of Hillsboro, where the present church is located, in the early ministry of Dr. D. S. Sydenstricker. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. J. C. Johnson. The frame church was torn down in the year of 1910, as it was deemed advisable to repair the old church with a new one. A new brick building occupies the site and bears the name of "Oak Grove Church" in memory of the pioneer church although surrounded by a maple grove. The two prevailing denominations, Methodists and Presbyterians, have been signally blessed in securing ministers of great spiritual vision and consecration, for which is expressed their gratitude and appreciation.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the village of Hillsboro.

Under the supervision of Rev. Joseph Brown the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room with two wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy," so strong was the impress of the school's influence on the minds and the hearts of the people. In recent years the old name of Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

Mr. A. Dunlap of Ponca City, Oklahoma, has contributed some recollections of ante bellum days from his remarkable memory of conversations heard in the home of his uncle, Rev. M. D. Dunlap. He thinks the first teacher ever in Hillsboro community was a man by the name of Keenan who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could write and read and had figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three. The next teacher was Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, and a physician. He is described as a large, lean, strong, man possessed of a kindly face and gentle heart. The description is somewhat contradictory as he is said to have whipped 13 boys the second day of school, 21 the third day, and 5 and 6 each day for about a week. After

that no further trouble was experienced. But the school had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined, and he used the means within his power. The wife of Dr. Blain was a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald MacRoberts, who made his home with them and told that panthers would sometimes enter their spring house and drink their milk. Mr. MacRoberts, whose father was a Randolph of Roanoke and descendant of Pocahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and in a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and a Democrat—in which the Whig was defeated in the argument—Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it suit to steer clear of his antagonist.

The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle, Christian character greatly endeared him to the people; and it is to be taken for granted that as he was instrumental in the building of the brick Academy he must have been the first teacher within its walls.

Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County; Tyrees and others of Fayette County; the Hayneses and others of Monroe County; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier County; the Bensons, Lightners, and Ruckmans, of Highland County, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man could handle.

Mr. Kelso, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey, of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married and went to western Pennsylvania to conduct a boarding school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's, and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Mr. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeels, and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Mr. Emerson was said to be a relative of Ralph Waldo Emerson and a native of New England. Miss Mary S. Loverage, of Connecticut, taught in Hillsboro at the same time, but in a different building. Mr. Emerson became one of her most ardent admirers, but her choice fell to Mr. Henry Clark. Mr. Dunlap is under the impression that Mr. Emerson never married, which is an erroneous one because he established a school for young ladies at Shemariah, Augusta County, Virginia, in which he was assisted by his wife. Miss May Sprinkel taught in the home-

of Colonel McNeel the first daughter in the family. year of the Civil War and gave her life as a missionary to China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church.

Rev. J. S. Kennison, a minister now in Albemarle Presbytery, N. C., is another worthy representative in the Master's cause from the same church. The first permanent settler in the wilderness of the Hillsboro Community was John McNeel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and, in the fear that he had slain an antagonist, fled from his native land and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Alleghanies. After spending some time in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section of the country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile land, fine timber, and the general outlook of a goodly place in which to dwell, that he cast his tent on the gentle slope between where are now the gate at recently, mourned by all the road and the Matthew who knew him. Mrs. Carrie John McNeel residence.

Stulting Sydenstricker, a

Teachers in Pocahontas County

Much has been written about the school teachers of various schools in Pocahontas County from early times to the present. The following is in my opinion one of the best of all, my Father.

In the mid 1950's three Vaughan Brothers left Brunswick County, Virginia headed West. One made it to Missouri, (the forerunner of Gen. Harry 'Icebox' Vaughan, under President Truman. One stopped in Kentucky - while my Grandfather Burrell Vaughan settled near Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County. From then until after the Civil War hauled salt between Kanawha and Greenbrier County. Burrell finally married Maggie Anderson and raised eight of nine children in Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties. They settled and built their log house on Caesar Mountain near Loblisa. Father's Birth Certificate as registered in the Court House at Lewisburg states he was born Sept. 25, 1873, listing his name as Elijah Burrell Vaughan.

E.B. Vaughan was educated from the Bible, home study and the one room log school at Loblisa. From there he entered the "Academy" for a full term. Three of his classmates were Summers and George Sharp and a Mr. L. MacCarthy who in his late years told me much about my Father. Then he was lame and used a cane. Judge Sharp also told about my Father during a talk we had after I had visited his brothers grave in Colon, Panama, where he had died with fever while digging the Panama Canal.

In 1892 Father finished the "Academy" and started working on the C. & O. R.R. in summers and attended Teachers College during the winters from which he graduated in 1895. Then he started teaching full time in Huntersville. Pocahontas County records state that on April 22nd, 1896 he and my Mother Fatima Susan Vaughn were married by Rev. Geo. H. Echols. My oldest Brother James H. Vaughan was born in Huntersville on Jan. 5, 1897, George Board Vaughan born Huntersville on March 7, 1899. That Spring my Father must have resigned after the school term and returned to the Railroad as I was born in Ronceverte, W.Va. on Feb. 16, 1901. Thus Father must have taught school for four full terms. The Assistant Vice President-Labor Relations Board of the C. & O. R.R. Archives in Richmond Va. advised me Father was killed cleaning up a wreck early in the morning of May 1, 1906 at Handley, W.Va. He was full Foreman of the Huntington Division at the time.

Mrs. Libby King, (Wife of Mr. Ed. King), an old friend, daughter of Uriah Bird who had a boarding and rooming house below Bird run, often told me about the Teachers meetings when My Father would ride horseback from Huntersville and stop with them for lunch. She sought his table because she said he was such a handsome man - pause - then she said in that shy way of hers 'Your Father was such a handsome man its a shame none of you three boys look like him.' - anyhow you have his bearing and good manners. (THANKS LIBBY).

glv.

APPE IN VOL. II

History of Hillsboro Community continued

He came here in the year 1765. After he began to occupy his tent or camp, padded, muffled, footsteps were heard circling the camp at night. He feigned sleep, keeping his gun near at hand, until he heard something stealthily creep upon the poles forming the roof. When he looked in the direction of the sound he beheld, by the light of the camp fire, the fiery eyes of a panther. He lost no time getting rid of the unwelcome visitor.

One day while out hunting for venison and fish he met Charles and Jacob Kennison, natives of his home land, who proved angels in disguise in bringing to him the glad tidings that the man he thought he had killed had recovered and was in good health. Imagination fails to convey the great relief and gratitude that filled his heart to know he was not a murderer, of which his future life gave convincing evidence. He invited the Kennisons to share his camp and aided them in selecting a home site adjoining his tract. About this time John McNeel must have built himself a cabin in the rear of the Matthew John McNeel residence, near a wonderful spring in that locality. These three men soon returned to the lower valley of Virginia. It was on this visit that he married Martha Davis who was born in Wales in 1740. Soon after their marriage they came to the Little Levels to make their home. They brought with them a Welch Bible now in the possession of Joseph S. McNeel, son of Captain William Lamb McNeel.

Joseph McNeel is the man who offered, free of charge, marble or granite to build our new State Capitol. This stone exists in great abundance within the beautiful hills that encompass our mountains and that shelter our valley on the West. It has been a source of great disappointment to many to have such a generous offer rejected and one that, if it had been accepted would have filled the heart of every citizen with a just and civic pride.

John McNeel was so deeply impressed with a sense of God's providential care that, in gratitude to Him, he built the White Pole Church on the hill set apart for the McNeel cemetery, the first Church in the Community. These three men joined the expedition to Point Pleasant in October 1774. They were spared to return home, but only for a

short time, as they enlisted in a company formed in Frederick County, Virginia, during the Revolution. After that experience they returned to this country and resumed "the even tenor of their lives."

A pathetic tradition informs us that while John McNeel was at Point Pleasant a child was born and died before his return, and that the mother, with her own hands, made the coffin, dug the grave and buried the child. This was the first grave in the McNeel cemetery, near the White Pole Church, which spot affords such charming landscape views of the surrounding country.

And now we come to the northern section of the Hillsboro Community, which is Mill Point, a charming little industrial village including within its limits proper a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills, and three homes. Many more homes are close by built on the hills and nestling coves and glens. Tourists exclaim over the majestic sweep of the hills and their graceful contour as they converge toward the village enclosing a scene of entrancing beauty.

Surely we can endorse the Psalmist and say, "The little hills rejoice on every side!"

X

Just above the village a picturesque spring is found tucked away in a sheltered nook among the lovely foothills that dip their feet into the laughing waters of Stamping Creek. The spring gushes forth so abundantly from its source as to form a miniature cataract. The water is so pure and cold that it is called the Blue Spring. There is a tradition that herds of buffalo formerly gathered in the valley facing the spring to drink from its pure, crystal water and that it was from the stamping of the buffalo that "Stamping Creek" derived its name.

Two of the tribes of Indians that frequented this region were the Ottawas and the Shawnees. Pontiac and Cornstalk were among their leaders. The death of the Bridger boys is the most dramatic story of Indian cruelty we know in connection with the Mill Point Fort. Nathan, a colored boy, belonging to Lawrence Drinnon was sent to the Levels for help when Henry Baker was killed, one mile above the mouth of Stony Creek. After burying the dead and remaining long enough to learn that the Indians had decamped, the rescuing party debated among them-

selves as to the wisest and safest way to return. All except the Bridger boys and Nathan agreed to come down by the Waddell place situated in the Marvin neighborhood, as the road was more open. The three boys took the mountain trail through "The Notch" on the Auldridge Mountain. Both of the Bridger boys were killed and buried at the Mill Point fort on the knoll now occupied by the Isaac McNeel residence. The colored boy was saved by stopping to tie his moccasin. The whoop of

the Indians was heard signaling from Gillilian Mountain, the Auldridge Mountain, and the head of Stamping Creek informing each other that the whites were aroused and that they must flee. The people who live in this community are the McNeels, Beards, Clarks, Morrisons, Clendenins, Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Kennisons, Wades, Lewises, McCartys, McCoys, Smiths, Cackleys, Ruckmans, McLaughlins, and others.

DEC. 4. 1975.

**Pearl S. Buck Birthplace
Second Annual St. Nicholas
Day**

Once a year back in the late 19th and early 20th century, many residents in this small, rural Appalachian community would take leave of their pressing chores to walk the short distance to the "Stulting House," the home of Pearl Buck's mother's family and the spot of the famous author's birth in 1892. The neighborly visit always took place on December 6, St. Nicholas Day, the big holiday of the year for the Stultings who had emigrated to America from Holland in 1847.

According to Dutch legend, the day was named in honor of the old, wealthy man in Holland who gave candy and cookies for the poor during the Christmas season. In that tradition, Pearl Buck's forbearers made cookies and candies for their numerous visitors to enjoy.

For the second year, the festive and religious flavor of St. Nicholas Day will live again from December 4 through 7 at the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Museum near Hillsboro. The historic house will be decorated for Christmas and free cookies, traditional almond bars, jan hables and St. Nicholas cookies will be given out at the end of the tour. On Sunday, Santa Claus will greet the children and the day will be culminated with a bonfire at 5 p. m. Also, on Sunday, Lorraine Vandevender, of the Our Place Shop, Bartow, will demonstrate making old fashioned Christmas wreaths. The general public is cordially invited to attend. The Museum is open from 9-5, Monday-Saturday and on Sunday, 1-5 p. m. Admission is charged and group rates are available upon request.

Of special interest to Christmas gift hunters, the Museum's gift shop will feature many hand-crafted products made in Pocahontas County, including handmade Christmas Tree ornaments and wreaths.

March 4, 1976.

PEARL BUCK MUSEUM

The Buckhannon Public Library has donated a copy of Pearl Buck's book, "My Mother's House", Autographed by her in both Chinese and English, to the Pearl Buck Birthplace Museum at Hillsboro. Mrs. J.W. Reynolds brought the book to Hillsboro and presented it.

X

(Page 2)

POCAHONTAS TIMES

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia, as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$2.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$2.50 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, SEPT. 16, 1965

Famous Price Family

The death of Dr. Norman Randolph Price on May 12, 1965, aged slightly more than 90 years, calls attention to possibly the most famous family of Pocahontas County, long established in Marlinton. Dr. Price's mother, Anna Louise Randolph, of Richmond, Virginia, was descended from the Indian princess Pocahontas. The Welsh name Price means "son of a man," which fits the family perfectly.

So in 1895, when William T. Price, oldest son of James Atlee Price, who had settled in Marlins Bottom, married Anna Louise Randolph, lady and poet with a little Indian blood, there was a happy and fruitful conjunction of ancestral strains.

The medical strain appeared in Thomas Price, ancestor of the Pocahontas Prices and son of the original Welsh immigrant, Samuel Price, who had settled in Augusta County, Virginia. Thomas acquired knowledge of medicine and surgery, and wrote a book on medicine, dated 1790.

From the marriage of William T. and Anna Louise Price came three well-known physicians: Doctors James W., Norman R., and Susie A. Price. Dr. Susie was clearly a pioneer woman physician, long employed by a Virginia institution. Her brothers built enviable reputations at home. From personal knowledge I know that Dr. Norman was an excellent letter writer and in recent years he composed a memorable autobiography, not yet published.

An older son, Andrew Price, became a prominent attorney, public official as postmaster, letter writer, and creditable poet along with his mother, and every inch a manly man to be trusted and admired. A younger son, Calvin W., as life long editor and publisher of the Pocahontas Times, first County newspaper, founded at Huntersville in 1882 and transferred to Marlinton in 1892, won a national reputation as a country editor and a host of friends by his uniform kindness and interest in people, which were distinguishing traits of his parents. A daughter, Anna Virginia, married a Marlinton banker, Hunter, and as a widow survives him. Another child Willie appears to have died in his youth.

The father, William T. Price, born in Marlinton in 1830, graduated from Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, in 1854, and from Union Theological Seminary in 1857. For 40 years or more, chiefly in Pocahontas County, he was a faithful and beloved Presbyterian pastor.

About 1890 he began his historical and biographical researches, and in August, 1892 in the Southern Historical Magazine, he published his first long account of Jacob Warwick and his descendants. Then followed many sketches on Pocahontas pioneers in the Pocahontas Times, which as a boy I read and enjoyed. In 1901 these sketches were revised and published in book form in Marlinton in a 600-page volume, named Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, which is a treasury of Pocahontas history and the author's masterpiece, hardly surpassed, and classed with Waddell's Annals of Augusta County,

Virginia.

Sincerely,
Amos L. Harold
1209 W. 8th St., Austin, Texas

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24964, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1975

Pioneer Days—July 11-13, '75

Two Hundred Years Ago

Pioneer Days starts the Bicentennial Celebration this year by honoring the men from this area who served the cause of freedom as Indian scouts and Revolutionary soldiers.

We print this week the testimony of John Bradshaw, as recorded at the Court House and printed in the Pocahontas Times in 1904. If you have other records and stories about Pocahontas people, we will be glad to print them. Also, we will print the names of those in Pocahontas today who are descended from those who served from what is now Pocahontas County.

Military Services of John Bradshaw

John Bradshaw lived in Pocahontas County, in 1833. On the 7th day of May, 1833, he appeared before the County Court of Pocahontas and made oath to his military service in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

He died on the 30th day of December, 1834.

He entered the service as an Indian spy in the spring of 1776. He was then seventeen years old. Before that he belonged to a company of Militia under Captain John Henderson. His home was in Monroe County, then Botetourt County. He took the oath of a spy. His term of service extended from May 1, 1776, to November 1, 1776, when the seasons for Indians closed, and their depredations having ceased and they having retired into winter quarters.

In 1777 he performed a similar service for six and a half months. Also in 1778 and 1779.

The nature of his services as an Indian Spy was to leave Cook's Fort on Indian Creek, now in the county of Monroe, and be out from three to four days each week, and then return, when others would go, for the same length of time. The practice was for two to go together, and when they returned another two would start out. The companion who was most with him was a man by the name of James Ellis. He sometimes went in the company of the late Colonel Samuel Estell, of Kentucky. The country he covered as an Indian Spy was in the gaps and low places in the chain of mountains between the William Tafferty plantation on New River and the headwaters of Laurel Creek where they met the spies from Burnside's Fort. They traversed the Big and Little Stony Creek, Indian Draft, a branch of Indian Creek, and the headwaters of Wolf Creek.

The beat was supposed to be about thirty miles. In performing the duties of spies they had to carry their provisions with them, it being against the nature of their oaths and instructions, and also jeopardizing their own safety, to make a fire at night no matter how inclement the weather might be. During this time he was engaged in no civil pursuit.

He was drafted as a soldier of the Revolutionary War in January, 1781, from the County of Augusta. His regiment was commanded by Colonel Sampson Matthews and his company by Captain Thomas Hicklen. He marched across the Blue Ridge Mountain at Rockfish Gap, thence to the city of Richmond, thence down James River to Lundy Point. His company crossed the river and marched to Camp Carson, an encampment in what was called the Dismal Swamp near a place called Portsmouth.

In the spring he marched with the army to Muddough Mills, still nearer to Portsmouth, and was discharged April 9, 1781, after three months service.

During this term of service, he was in one engagement at or in sight of Portsmouth. Captain Cunningham, from Rockbridge County, Virginia, was wounded in the groin, as he was standing a few paces from in front of Bradshaw. And a soldier was wounded near him in the leg and borne off the field in a carriage. These were the only injuries received by the American Army. He was several times engaged in routing the enemies picket guard during the aforesaid time. He was sergeant and acted as such during the three months.

He was again drafted in the summer of the same year and was under the same captain but was attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Vance. He was marched through Rockfish Gap, thence on by a place called Bowling Green, thence on by Poge's warehouse, and then on to Little York, where Lord Cornwallis with his army was then stationed.

He was at the siege of York and the taking of Lord Cornwallis. The British army was marched out between the lines of the American army to the place where they laid down their arms and then they returned through the same lines to their encampment in Yorktown and on the next day were marched out with their knapsacks on, and then took up their line of march under a strong escort or guard of the American soldiers to the barracks at Winchester, Virginia. Bradshaw was one of the guard that escorted the British prisoners to Winchester where he received his discharge.

He refers to John Slaven who served with him in the same company.

Rev. John S. Blain, a clergyman of Pocahontas County, and William McCord certify that they are acquainted with John Bradshaw and that he is reputed and believed to be a soldier of the Revolution.

John Slaven testifies to his services as soldier at Portsmouth and Yorktown.

The members of the court include John Bradshaw, together with Joseph Moore, Sampson L. Matthews, and Jacob Lightner, gentlemen.

John Bradshaw received his pension and died the following year leaving the following children and no widow: James Bradshaw, William Bradshaw, John Bradshaw, Thomas Bradshaw, Mrs. Levi Cackley, Mrs. John Guinn, Mrs. Thomas Gammon, Mrs. Samuel Hogsett.

From Prices History we record a little more about John Bradshaw:

Mr. Bradshaw owned the lands now held (1900) by William Curry, Amos Barlow, that recently held by the late William J. McLaughlin, the site of Huntersville, and from the James Sharp property on Browns-Creek to Dilleys Mill. He donated and deeded the site for the public buildings of Pocahontas County, without reservation. In a lottery venture he drew a prize of ten thousand dollars, which made him one of the money-kings of his time.

In appearance his personality was striking, large and portly and scrupulously neat in his dress. He used a crutch that was profusely ornamented with silver mountings. His manners were those of an elegant gentleman of the old school.

About the time of Tarleton's raid to Charlottesville, he was drafted into the service. Late Saturday evening the notice was served on him to be ready for duty Monday morning. His young wife was equal to the emergency. She cooked, washed, cried, and prayed all day Sunday and had him ready for the war early Monday morning, and by night he was in Staunton on his march to Yorktown, where he said he fought in blood "shoemouth deep."

He died suddenly in 1837 (?). His grave is marked by the wild cherry tree in the old Huntersville cemetery, that is said to be growing directly over his grave.

Special Report

Western Union Rushes Death of 'Old' Telegram

By LEONARD WIENER
Chicago Daily News

The telegram, as it has been known for more than a century, is practically dead. And Western Union, for one, wouldn't mind rushing the funeral.

WU President Russell McFall says he would like to see a hefty premium charged for hand delivery of telegram—perhaps \$10 to \$20 or more. In today's world hand delivery is an "elite service" that should involve an elite charge, he feels.

Not that Western Union, despite its increasing reliance on commercial-data transmission, wants to get completely out of the public-message business. Rather, according to McFall, the company wants to redesign its service to achieve a compromise between the need for relatively fast written communications and today's cost of labor.

THE MOST PROMISING proposal for a substitute for the telegram is the mailgram, a telegram sent by teleprinter to a post office near the recipient and then delivered overnight by regular mail. Although mailgrams can now be sent only from New York City and Los Angeles, Western Union plans to expand the service. It recently estimated that mailgram volume might total 150 million a year by 1975. About 16,000 mailgrams now are sent daily and the total this year is expected to be about 4.5 million.

The mailgram may be the efficient message-mover of the future, but the telegram will be a tough act to follow — in terms of its effect on an infant nation growing robust, the humor and poignancy it carried, the joys and too-often-tragic announcements that clicked over its wires and reached their destination clenched in the fist of a nervous boy pedaling a bike furiously between the local Western Union office and home after home.

His appearance at the front door always meant a moment of panic. Too often it was justified. ("The War Department regrets to inform you . . .")

But sometimes it bred joy. ("I am coming home.") Or it meant a dozen roses telegraphed by an admirer. Or birthday greetings, sometimes sung off-key.

THE BIGGEST SINGLE outpouring of telegrams occurred in 1952 after Richard Nixon made his famous "Checkers speech" in response to charges about his campaign fund. Some 500,000 telegrams in support of Nixon assured his spot as vice-presidential candidate.

One of the most disastrous uses of a telegram occurred in 1941: A warning from Washington of a possible Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was sent to Hawaii military commanders by commercial telegram rather than through direct military communications. The attack was under way when the telegram arrived.

The telegram first became a tool of battle during the Civil War — and both North and South began tapping telegraph lines to spy on enemy plans. That was only 20 years after portrait painter Samuel F. B. Morse sent the first message — "What hath God wrought," from Washington to Baltimore.

Western Union, incorporated in 1851, was a glamor company of its day. But it blew its biggest opportunity: in 1877 it turned down an offer to acquire for \$100,000 the patents for what would become the telephone.

BUT EVEN as the telephone grew so did the telegram and it was big news in 1937 when Western Union informed the nation that it would henceforth use punctuation in its telegrams. No longer would a message include "stop,"

— PO. TIMES —

Say It Now

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.
I would rather have a pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
I'd rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed around my casket
When this world I'll bid adieu.
Bring me all the flowers today
Either pink or white or red,
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I'm dead.

Sent in by Obie Alderman
IOOF Home

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlington, W. Va., at second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County, \$1 a year
Elsewhere, \$1.50 a year

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY, JAN. 10, 1952

A Sharp Family

Charles H. Sharp of the Army, writes in from Provo, Utah, for me to give him his family line. As what I may write for him, may be of interest to his many kin people. I will publish it.

To begin with there are two lines of descent in the family name of Sharp. William of Huntersville, and that of John Sharp, the pioneer of Frost. John Sharp, native of North Ireland, who came here about 1790. There is unconfirmed tradition that John was a nephew of William. It is the William line that the young soldier is interested in.

William Sharp came to Huntersville prior to the Revolution, about 1773. He probably was from Augusta County, near Staunton. His wife was Mary Meeks Sharp. He was a scout and a soldier. One of their sons, William Jr., married Elizabeth Waddell of near Mill Point. They settled in Verdant Valley, Edray District, near Fairview.

One of their sons was John who married Sally Johnson, who lived on Jerico Road, the old Ewing place, present home of Loy Sharp.

One of their sons was Ewing, who married Ann Malcomb.

One of their sons was Warwick P., who married his cousin Mary Sharp.

One of their sons is Charles Jack, who married Ora Thompson.

One of their sons is Charles H. the soldier who married Norma

There is the romantic tradition that William, Jr. met Elizabeth Waddell at the home of Thomas Drinnen, who lived at Edray. She was there spinning flax. A preacher came along, probably Bishop Asbury, who can well be accounted the founder of the Methodist Church in America. Thomas drummed up a congregation, and one of the worshippers was William Jr., who came dressed in a coonskin cap.

When the young lady had returned home she made some funny remarks about the homely young man she had seen at the meeting and his furry cap. Her mother remonstrated, and said the young chap would probably be calling around the first thing she knew.

Sure enough he did come soon and on a busy wash day. He found the young lady resting up, performing on the spinning wheel in short petticoat, chemise and bare footed. It was love at first sight, and they became engaged that very day.

William the pioneer had his home near the junction of the Browns Creek and Huntersville Roads. He went with Augusta troops in the fall of 1774 to Pt. Pleasant, the first battle of the Revolutionary war. I am under the impression he was not in the battle. If I am right in this surmise, General Lewis had sent him from Charleston to go up Elk River and cut across country to the Army of Governor Murray, Lord Dunmore, who was coming down the Ohio River. They were to meet at the mouth of the Ohio. Mr. Sharp carried the message that General Lewis was on the way. They still tell tales reflecting on the integrity of Lord Dunmore for dragging his feet as he came down the Ohio. Anyway, the Indians started the battle before the other army could arrive and got themselves terribly defeated.

The combined forces did across the Ohio to Pickaway Plains, to receive the Indian render under the still s Logan Elm.

Incidentally, the first of American Independence was written and circulated Camp on Pickaway Plains, September, 1774. This beats at Charlotte, N. C., of 1775, by several months. The turn predated the real Philadelphia on that Fourth of July 1776.

I will look up the first of American Independence and publish it some of these days. The gist of it was Virginia right and circumstance were should be free, and if an wanted to take up the banner recent successful encounter the Indians at the Point them a dangerous force with.

So far as I have ever been to find out, this fine resolution was adopted at a mass meeting the Army, and nobody evened it.

Along in the early 1830s William Sharp, the scout and made affidavit before the Court of Pocahontas County to his service in the Revolution. The next time I am at the House, I will pay Clerk McLaughlin for a certified and print it again. This is off hand writing on so important a matter as a man's family. There is always present the temptation to slide from fact to

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except the last week of the year.

Entered at the Post Office at Marlinton, West Virginia 24984, as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$5.00 a year. In advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, NOV. 27, 1975

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

More About Marlinton

John Hayslett was set to remembering about the old Opera House and came into the Times Office to share some recollections:

He remembers several plays in the Opera House, all brought in—"Seven Nights in a Bar Room," "Face on the Bar Room Floor," also a hypnotist; for advertisement they put a hypnotized man in the drug store window, claiming no one could wake him; Dr. Howard stuck a needle in his heel and brought him out of it.

When Kelmenson's Store (located where People's Store is now) burned about 1916, his stock was stored in the Opera building. Darley Williams was fire chief.

There was a big door into the basement on the south side; there was nothing in it but the boys played in there.

It caught fire one time and the fire went up into the gable; the firemen put a ladder on the balcony and went up to put it out. Paul Overholt was fire chief. Lee Cole, Reed McNeill, John Guthrie, the Grubbs boys, Barney Slaven, Willard Eskridge, Kyle McCarty and John were the firemen as he remembers.

There was a building where French's Diner now is that went from street to alley. It burned—that was a good piece of fire fighting that saved other buildings.

Below that close to the railroad was a mill. Donnelly first had the mill. He lived across from the school where Joe Roy, Jr. lives. Tate Hiner next had the mill and lived in the same house.

John noted that the Frank Hill family is the only family living in the upper part of town that was there 50 years or so ago.

He thinks T. D. Moore had a store above where Peoples Store is that burned. He then had a store on Main Street before building the store where the liquor store is.

Where Mrs. Mae Morrison recently built her home, there was a long one-story building. Several people had a laundry business there. John Jackson, a tall, tall man had a shoe shop there.

The first picture show he knows of was in the J&P Furniture Store building. The show cost a nickel and they called it the "Nickelodeon." They were silent pictures, of course, many of them serials. He remembers "Diamond in the Sky" as a serial. It was owned by Mr. Morgan, who had a store at the back and lived where Mrs. Jennie Sharp lives in the 600 block on Second Avenue. There were two buildings where the Municipal Building is, built by John Alexander and his son, Dwight. They also owned the hotel. John Alexander built the home where Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Sharp live. Back to the two buildings. The upper building had a pool room, three tables, and the lower building had a bowling alley, two alleys. There were palm trees in buckets

sitting around—a beautiful place. They later put the bowling alley in with the pool room and built a swimming pool in the lower building. The pool was still there under the building when it was torn down a couple of years ago. There was a theatre in the same building, either before or after the bowling alley. It has been a grocery store, used by the Holy Rollers, and later was Brumagin's Furniture Store.

There was a big fountain in a fenced in court between the hotel on the corner of Main Street and the store on the other corner, which was T. D. Moore's Store, Mrs. E. G. Herold's Waffle Shop, and Wilbur Sharp's Store, before being torn down.

J. A. Hoover had a tailoring store where Curry's or Shrader's Store is.

Harlow Waugh had a store in building next to the Presbyterian Church. Amos Staton had a hotel in this building.

R. C. May (father of Edith May, Edna Bear, and Clarence May) built an office across from the Tannery gate. He was an agent for Standard Oil and then the office was turned into a store. The Mays lived on Third Avenue by E. H. Williams.

Stanley Wooddell's house belonged to Allen Gay's family and was moved from Second Avenue to Third Avenue where they built a brick house (now owned by Lee McGee).

Forrest Malcomb lived in the first house on the 600 block where Gib VanReenen lives.

G. W. Clark built the house above Benwood Market for a hotel. He also had a stable. Wise Herold lived in that house, then it was a home for hospital nurses, now is the Sharp apartment house.

The house where Melvin Anderson lives was built by

Mr. Campbell, of the Campbell Lumber Company, and sold to Elmer Wade when they moved.

John's teachers were first grade—Anna Wallace; second grade, Anna Sullivan; third grade, Anna Lee Ervine; fourth, Anna Sullivan; fifth, Gladys Poling; sixth, Catherine Ervine; seventh, Lillie Milligan; eight, Mr. Martin.

The main thing he wants remembered is the nine-hole golf course in town. It started near the bridge where Claude Malcomb's Taxi building is. It went down the river to the point near the Mouth and came up to where the brick Waugh house is, back down to the point and back up to where Ralph Nottingham house is. There were six holes on the west side of the railroad, then it went across the railroad and No. 7 was where the Little League ball field is. No. 8 was where the McGraw home is, No. 9 was right next to where Alva Moore lives—there were no homes there, just an apple orchard. He remembers Merle and Lucille McClintic played golf.

There used to be three fire companies—the Tannery Company, Downtown Company, and Uptown Company. Each had hand carts. There was a tall tower-like building to drain the hose located near where the American Legion building is.

On the Fourth of July the fire companies would gather at the corner of the Presbyterian Church and go up Main Street to connect to the fire plug to see which company could get water first. One Fourth a Syrian and his horse were struck and killed by the train.

Members of the Tannery Company (discontinued probably about 1930), as John can remember, were Ernest Dennison, Sam Withers, Ike Withers, Pete Spitzer, Howard Crable and Albert Moore.

John and his family

moved here in 1908 from Millboro, Virginia, and lived where S. B. Wallace Company is today. The house burned about ; they then moved into a tannery house; they also lived in the Red House on Seneca Trail, the house above Peoples Store (it burned when Kelmenson's Store burned); and also where Mrs. Clarence Kellison lives by the Coca Cola plant.

Tom Mason first had a pop shop in the old frame First National Bank building, which was later the Home Products Market. South of that was Gay and Carter Feed Store. Next to it was a building that E. C. Cunningham had a restaurant or tavern; next was R. B. Slaven's Tin Shop. Where Williams Supply Store is now there was a livery stable run by G. W. Clark and Rex Kincaid.



Marlinton's Old And New Post Offices

Marlinton's first post office was this crude sawmill shanty located on Price Run on the Jerico Road. A sign on the building read: "Letters One Cent." Marlinton's present post office is located in a modern government building which was completed in 1937.

Former Confederate Army Captain Was First Marlinton Post Master

By JANE KINCAID

MARLINTON, Dec. 7 (RNS) — The year 1955 marks the seventieth anniversary of the establishing of a United States post office and the appointment of a postmaster in Marlinton.

During these 70 years there have been 13 postmasters who have served terms after being appointed by the different presidents. The second appointment was served by a woman and the fourth appointment was served by a Negro preacher.

Marlinton's first postmaster was Capt. J. R. Apperson, formerly of the Confederate Army. He was appointed in 1885 by the Democrat President Grover Cleveland. The first post office was located

in the Toll House near the end of the bridge across the Greenbrier River which connects Marlinton with Route 219. This building, which is still standing, has been remodeled and is now occupied by the Toll House Restaurant. After serving one year as postmaster, Apperson resigned and returned to his home in Richmond, Va.

The second postmaster appointment was given to Mrs. Thomas B. Skyles, the former Miss Jane Baldwin of Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Skyles, who was the only woman ever to serve as Marlinton postmaster, was appointed by President Cleveland. She served in 1886 and 1887. The post office was then located in a hotel located on the present site of the Pocahon-

tas Memorial Hospital and owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Yeager.

Mrs. Skyles served only one year and resigned to go east with her husband, but during that year she changed the course of local history. This is how:

History books show that in the year 1749 the first settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains was made by Jacob Marlin and Stephen B. Sewell, who had come into the Pocahontas County section from Virginia. They built a cabin on what is now the present site of Marlinton.

Although Marlin and Sewell were the best of friends, they could not agree on the subject of religion and found it more agreeable to live apart. One of the men remained in the cabin while the other took up his abode in a large hollow sycamore tree which stood nearby.

Col. Andrew Lewis found the men thus living apart when he came to what is now Pocahontas County on a surveying trip for the Greenbrier Land Co. in 1751. Sewell eventually moved further west and was killed by Indians on the mountain which now bears his name. In the meantime, Marlin returned to Virginia, but left his name on the settlement which he had helped form; as later settlers called the community Marlin's Bottom.

Mrs. Skyles decided that the name Marlin's Bottom did not sound right, so she inaugurated a campaign to have the town's name changed. It is said that she met with opposition on all sides. Even though she was bitterly opposed by most of the older members of the community, she used all of her influence in her campaign and was successful in getting the town's name changed from Marlin's Bottom to Marlinton.

Although the town of Marlinton has had its name since the late 1880's, there is still confusion in the spelling. Persons unfamiliar with the proper name often put the letter "g" in Marlinton, making it "Marlington." Much of the mail coming to the local post office is addressed thus. To aid in correcting this impression, the late Andrew Price, Marlinton historian and attorney, once wrote a poem entitled "There Ain't No G in Marlinton." This poem has been widely quoted and is familiar to most all Marlinton residents.

Sheriff Sam Gay was Marlinton's third postmaster. He was appointed in 1887 by President Cleveland and served until 1889. Dr. Calvin W. Price, editor of the Pocahontas Times, from whom the names of the Marlinton postmasters and the dates of their terms were secured, says there were three local residents by the name of Sam Gay at that time. The way they were distinguished was Sheriff Sam, Draft Sam, and Devil Sam.

It was during Sheriff Sam Gay's term as postmaster that Marlinton had its first post office building. The office was moved into an old sawmill shanty on Price Run on the Jerico Road, where it remained until 1889 when Gay resigned to become a candidate for another term as county sheriff.

With the change in presidential administrations, Marlinton's fourth postmaster was the Rev. Madison Boggs, a Negro preacher. He was appointed in 1889 by President Benjamin Harrison. As the Rev. Boggs was also keeper of the toll house at the Marlinton bridge, the post office was moved to the Toll House again.

Before the coming of the railroad into Pocahontas County, the mail was brought in at least once a week by horseback and stagecoach. It came into the county over the Lewisburg-Marlinton Turnpike. A few years later, the mail was brought in three times a week. It was customary for the carrier to bring the mail from Lewisburg one day and make the return trip on the following day. During the stagecoach era, the mail coach also served as a conveyance for passengers.

After the stagecoach era the mail was carried in a two-wheel cart in which one or two passengers were often accommodated. Three Pocahontas County residents who had mail contracts during this period were Valentine Perkins, Thomas Hogsett (grandfather of

Lanty Hogsett of Marlinton), and Joseph Pennell (father of Add Pennell, also of Marlinton).

Charles E. Hevener served as Marlinton's fifth postmaster. He was appointed in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison. The office was still located in the Toll House.

The sixth postmaster was Henry A. Yeager, who was appointed by President Cleveland during his second term in 1893. During Yeager's term as postmaster, the office was located in the Staten Hotel building. This structure, which is still standing, is being purchased by the Marlinton Presbyterian Church and will soon be razed to make room for church expansion.

W. W. Tyree was appointed as the seventh Marlinton postmaster. He received his appointment from President William McKinley in 1897. During Tyree's term, the office was moved to a location where the People's Store now stands. Later the office was moved to a building which occupied the site of the present post office.

The eighth postmaster was N. Clausen McNeill, who was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. Again, it was pick up the mail bags and move. This time the office was moved into the First National Bank Building to the room where Buzzard's Barber Shop is now located.

A. S. Overholt was appointed as the ninth postmaster by President Roosevelt in 1905. He was reappointed by President William H. Taft in 1909 and served until 1913. The office remained in the bank building.

The tenth postmaster was Andrew W. Price, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. In 1917 Price was reappointed by President Wilson and served until 1921. It was during Price's tenure of office that free house-to-house mail delivery was inaugurated in Marlinton. The town is one of the smallest communities in the nation having this service. The man who carried the first mail over Marlinton streets was Edward Moore, who still serves as one of the town's carriers. The office remained in the bank building.

J. E. Buckley was the town's eleventh postmaster. He was appointed by President Warren G. Harding in 1921 and reappointed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1923. Buckley was the first postmaster to receive a third appointment, his appointment coming from President Herbert Hoover in 1929.

By 1929 the town's population had grown so that post office quarters had to be enlarged. A partition in the bank building was removed so that the office could also occupy the room now used by the Style Rite Beauty Shop. The post office remained in these rooms while the present modern post office building was being constructed.

Dr. E. G. Herold was appointed as the town's twelfth postmaster in 1934 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Herold served until his death in 1937.

Marlinton's thirteenth and present postmaster is Kerth Nottingham. He was appointed in 1937 by President Roosevelt. It was in this year that the post office was moved into the present modern building and the office's first permanent home.

In 1942 the appointment of postmasters was brought under Civil Service and it was in that year that Nottingham, having taken a Civil Service examination, was appointed as postmaster under the new law.

There have been many changes in the American way of life as well as the U. S. Postal Service since Marlinton's crude first post office was established 70 years ago, but the traditional although unofficial motto of the mail service is still in effect: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

(Since this is the first written history of the Marlinton post office, the writer is indebted to the following persons for facts contained in this article: Dr. C. W. Price, Dr. G. D. McNeill, J. E. Buckley, Kerth Nottingham, and Mrs. Richard Currence.)

FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Puerto Castilla, Honduras.

May 3, 1925.—We left Balboa two weeks ago and went to Cartagena, South America. After four days there we started for Port Limon, Costa Rica, but while underway we received orders to relieve the Denver here in Puerto Castilla. The trouble is all over now and tomorrow we leave here for Port Limon, C. R., then to Colon on the 12th of the month. This suits me because I like to travel from one place to another, and this is a good trip to four countries in Central and South America.

Cartagena is one of the most interesting places I have been. It is one of the oldest cities in South America, founded by the French and Spanish. It is mostly convents and churches. The walls the Spaniards built and the forts are all intact and in use although the city has outgrown the wall today. Lawrence Washington, George Washington's brother, captured it about the time of the Revolutionary War. There many things of interest here but I haven't time to write of them now.

Port Limon, Costa Rica, May 10.—I have just returned from one of the most wonderful trips I ever hoped to make. Upon leaving Puerto Castilla, we went to La Olla, Honduras, for a day and night, then we came to Port Limon.

Before we arrived we were notified by radio that the Costa Rican government was going to give a free trip to San Jose, the capital, which is 103 miles inland from Port Limon, to a limited number of officers and men, and all men having a clear record were given first chance and I did not miss it. It is not very often that men in foreign countries are given trips like this, therefore they are looked upon as rare treats.

We left Port Limon at seven a. m. Friday by a special train and arrived at San Jose at 12:30. The trip up was wonderful. The railroad, which is owned by the government and is practically run by Americans, is a very modern one with the exception that it is narrow gauge.

For thirty miles after leaving Port Limon the railroad runs along the coast under giant coconut palms with a splendid view of the beach. Leaving the beach it starts inland through the plantations. Here we saw bananas, oranges, lemons, pineapples, coffee, corobean trees, lemons, limes, tobacco and many other tropical fruits and crops of all kinds. Leaving the plantations, we started up a mountain side that has many waterfalls, and every time we would cross

the end of the mountain bridges, we included one of the Grandfathers.

San Jose being so high in the mountains, we were wearing our blues. At first it looked funny putting our blues on in the tropics, but when we started climbing the mountains they felt comfortable.

The beautiful views continued all the way to San Jose and the trip up the mountain was as beautiful as any. Sometimes the grade was steep and by climbing in and out of big oaks and a dash across a ravine, one of the numerous houses we finally reached the top and then down the other side to the Capital City of Costa Rica. Here we were taken to our hotels in American made cars and were given the best service in the found. Up in the mountains are large farms and cattle range and everywhere we went there was a reminder of the larger farms in the States because all the work here is done by the latest farm machinery.

One could hardly believe they were in the tropics with the night chilly and wearing heavy clothes, we forgot all about our huddles back in Port Limon only sixty miles away as the crow flies, suffering in summer clothes from the heat of old King Sol. The many crooks and huns the railroad has in ascending the mountain make the extra mileage.

We spent the day and night sight-seeing—visiting the national places of interest—I don't think we missed a thing of importance unless it was the volcano about thirty miles out of the city. The population of the city is around forty thousand and the city is directly connected with New Orleans by a large radio company. We met a few American tourists there. They were paying a big price for gold and other things we were getting free and we were seeing the city in our own way. What we didn't know we asked about in the little Spanish we had learned here and there.

There were hundreds of things I saw of interest but haven't time to write about. On our trip back we stopped at several towns and bought souvenirs from the Indians. Costa Rica is one of the few Central American countries that have not mixed with the negroes and Indians and the bigger part of them are white. Most of the negroes (there are not many) came here from Jamaica and can all speak good English.

We are leaving here tomorrow for the Canal Zone. This month's cruise has been the best of all, and I hope to have another and not have to stay in Balboa all the time until August when we start for New York.

Glenn L. Vaughan.

BALBOA CANAL ZONE

May 14, 1934

The last letter I wrote was from the Atlantic coast, and this is from the Pacific side. Balboa is very much like Cristobal, but not quite as large, and being an American Port, is dry, it being dry doesn't hurt things as bad because Panama City is "just about the hill" and fifty cents will take you over. These two cities are separated by Ancon Hill.

It may seem strange to you, as it first did to me, when I had my first day ashore, I thought that most of people here, especially the Americans, would be drunk, but such is not the case. I don't know why it is, but outside of two or three cases I have not seen a drunk person down here and I think I have been in the places where one would find or expect to find over-loaded persons.

Sunday we came through the Canal and although it rained most of the day, I was able to see many of the wonderful sights to be seen while going through. The Locks are wonderful and to watch them work is more wonderful. They are operated by electricity and by pressing a button the huge gates will close and water is forced into the Locks from the bottom, and it takes from seven to ten minutes to raise the ship thirty feet. There are three sets of locks—Colon Locks on the Atlantic, Pedro Miguel and Miraflores or Pacific Locks on the Pacific side. Twelve to fifteen is the average number of ships to go through a day.

Two of us were transferred to the Denver this morning, but will be here until we meet another U. S. S. ship and I don't know when that will be. The Navy Transport U. S. S. Argonne arrived here day before yesterday. I think she brought the mail down. It takes ten days for mail to come down on transports, otherwise it would take longer.

The Argonne had aboard about fourteen hundred soldiers, sailors and machines, with about fifty women, bound for China. They stopped here to give them a two day's rest before going on. This was their first stop. We had a great time with them. They left this morning for San Francisco.

Here at Balboa there is a Club house, a Community house, and a Y. M. C. A. and we make good use of them. Balboa is owned by the U. S. and nearly all the people living here are from the States. Most of them are working for the Government and make big money. The Police Department is all American and U. S. money is accepted everywhere.

Oh, I forgot the best thing that has happened lately. Four boys from my class at school were on the Argonne, and with the nine of us here it brought nearly all our class together again, and we sure had a time that will be remembered by all of us. They are gone now and we are staying here for six weeks unless we are called to Central America.

There are many things here that are mighty interesting but the most things are hard to describe and have to be seen to be appreciated. Of course fruits and many other things that one would expect to find in the tropics, are most plentiful and can be bought everywhere. The streets are as good and in most cases better than some cities in the States. One thing that seemed strange to me was the left hand traffic law. Instead of keeping to the right everything goes on the left side of the street.

In Panama City the people are mostly Spaniards, Negroes, and Spleks, which are a mixture of everything. The middle class are always dressed in white—unless they have on mourning—and are surprisingly clean. The poorer class and the Spleks are more like Mexicans, and are dirty all the time. Their children must always go naked until they are about eight years old.

The shop owners and business men are somewhat like Americans. They all dress well and have cars. There many cars made in the U. S. in the jitney business here, and are cheaper than in the States.

Although this is not supposed to be the rainy season here, it has rained every day for more than a week.

I am well and getting along fine and if I am unexpectedly transferred will send cable or radiogram telling name of ship I am on.

Gen. L. Vaughan,
U. S. S. Rochester.

Along The Way

By Susan A. Price, M. D.

John Weaver, from up along the Flats of the Chicabominy, recently brought a turkey to a neighbor. They were not at home so he left the turkey with me, until they did get home about dark. We put it on a table and it spread well over, both in length and in width. A lady from Richmond who was visiting me that day said it was a wild turkey and so it was—shot that very morning—one of the few wild turkeys I had ever seen.

Years and years ago, I went to spend a few days with cousin Emma Warwick at "The Cabin" on Stony Creek. It was Christmas and the country was snow bound in the old time winter. The two boys, John and George, were home from military school. They had killed a wild turkey up along the cliffs. By the time I came the turkey had reached the breakfast hash stage. From my pleasant memory of the taste of cousin Carrie's hot turkey hash on those cold winter mornings, her recipe would indeed be a popular one could it be recalled.

My littlest neighbor, aged about three, came in to tell me her Christmas gifts. She said she got a snow shoot, some bed sippers, a doll, a coes line ever pins; also very slowly with deep emphasis, "I had the chicken pops."

The great wave of Christmas high tide is subsiding—back to the deep and unknown sea of the future one might say. It was busy out pouring of peace on earth, good will to man. With all was the most marvelous weather for the Christmas season hardly ever remembered hereabouts. Spring like it was indeed, earning much comment. However, there is always something each Christmas season to cause mankind to rise above and beyond earthly things and every day conditions although many hold to the belief it is still too much of an earthly affair, if there be such a connection to us earth borne creatures. We are reminded of these lines from Preston's First Christmas:

Peter was a fisher boy,
Helping with the haul;
Pilate was a shave tail,
Leading troops in Gaul;
Judas was as innocent
As little child could be;
The wood that made the Crucifixion
Was still a growing tree;
Unminted was the silver,
That made the traitor's pay;
And none had yet commercialized
The spirit of the day.

A Happy New Year to all.

Susan A. Price, M. D.
Williamsburg, Va.

Cass

The Old and the New

Tourists come for miles by the car load and by the bus load, to ride the train to the top of the mountain, to see the beauty of nature and to see the old Cass Mill and the Company store. In my mind I go back several years and see a different Cass from what it is today. Cass was a town of hard working men, women and children, striving to keep the old mill running. I can hear the mill whistle blowing loud and clear every working day at 5:30 A. M., telling the men it was time to arise and face a new day. Cass seemed to come alive in one split second when that old whistle started blowing. Lights came on in every house for the women had to prepare a hot breakfast and pack lunches. Men had to put on their work clothes, eat a hearty breakfast and be on their way to the mill, shop, trains, or any job they happen to have. If you were one of the early risers you could see men come out their back doors and walk out the alley or out their front doors and walk up the board walks, some would fall in step with their neighbors and talk as they walked, and some would walk alone, just thinking about the day ahead or days gone by. At 7:00 o'clock the whistle blew again, telling them it was time to start up the wheels of progress. Later the school bell would ring just about as loud and long as the mill whistle. Children came from all directions, out the streets, across the old swinging bridge, up from Slab Town and Deer Creek, all would be carrying school books and some would be carrying a lunch pail or paper bag. A small group would be on their way to school because their parents made them go, but most of them went because they liked school and were interested in getting an education. Soon an-

other bell rang telling the children it was time to take their seats and get classes started. Most of the classes started their day with the Lord's Prayer or a Bible story. The smaller classes would then have a "classmate health inspection." Usually they found me with dirty elbows for that lye soap didn't seem to get my elbows clean. Some would have dirty hands. Once in awhile someone had forgotten to comb his hair. About twice a year there would be a few sent home with lice. It was no disgrace to get lice, but it was awful uncomfortable to keep them. After inspection everyone settled down to studying reading, writing, arithmetic, and other subjects necessary for a good education. At noon the school

bell rings, the mill bell whistle blows, telling the mothers to get the dinner on the table for those close enough to go home, the others to get out their lunch boxes and eat and relax. Some children used the noon hour to go to the post office or to the store to do a little shopping for their moms or a neighbor. The men would hurry to the store to buy a bag of Five Brothers tobacco, a plug of Browns Mule chewing tobacco, a new pair of gloves, or to sit on the store steps, leaning up against the heating units in the store (depending on the weather) to just talk and relax. Back to school and work for the afternoon. Four o'clock brings the sound of the school bell and mill whistle again. Children and fathers hurry home for a hot meal and to do the chores necessary to start in the routine of the next day. Mondays one could see line after line of clean clothes hanging out to dry. Tuesday was ironing day. Mothers were busy too; they had house cleaning, cooking, mending and all the little things a mother has to do to keep a family happy. The yards were

kept mowed, sidewalks swept clean in summer months. In winter months the snow was shoveled off of the porches and sidewalks. The maintenance crew could be seen painting houses or mending fences and sidewalks. Some of us, whether we lived in town houses or privately owned homes, almost knew how many boards were in each sidewalk, how many trees, and what kind were in each yard, who had dogs and who had cats. We could hear the passenger train coming up the track, knowing that it would stop at the old Cass Depot, bringing some new people and some we already knew. Time for a mad rush for the post office to get the County paper which always came on Thursday, or to see who got the biggest package from Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward, some to get a new mail order catalog. The train went on up to Durbin and back down again in the afternoon with more mail and passengers. Soon a freight train could be heard coming in to bring supplies and to take out lumber. In your small mind you wondered how the freight and passenger train could be on the track and not run into each other. Somewhere in and around all this the sound of the log train could be heard bringing in logs off of the mountain to be sawed and planed at the mill. Friday and Saturday the men who cut down the trees in the mountain were in need of a bath and clean clothes, so they would ride the log trains in for a weekend with their families. At nights the church bell would

ring at one of the three churches, telling people there was a revival going on, choir practice, singing for a Christmas or Easter program or a prayer meeting. On Sunday mornings the bells from all three churches would ring for Sunday School and preaching services. People could be seen going up the street or down the street, going to the church of their choice. The town doctor would start out early to make house calls, to ease a small child's pains, an elderly person's aches, or on a rush call to bring a new baby into the world. He would go back to his office to find it full of patients, some were real sick and some only needed an aspirin and a pep talk. Some needed a broken bone mended, some needed a tooth pulled. Our doctor was a medical doctor, dentist and a counselor, all in one big jolly man. He was mother, father, and doctor to us young people. It was a sad day in Cass when he died.

We must not forget our Town Cop. He could be seen or found somewhere in Cass 24 hours a day. He made his regular rounds, sometimes taking a fellow home who had too much to drink and locking up some who refused to stay home after he had taken them home,

checking up on the young people, making sure they had a good time, yet keeping out of trouble. On real dark nights or cold nights he would walk home with some of the children or young people if they lived out of town limits and had no street lights. He kept a close watch on the one restaurant we had, where young people could go to dance, drink coleslaw, or just enjoy the company of other young people, and of course he had to keep an eye on the beer joints to keep the men and some women from drinking more than they could handle, and separate the fighters. He was a busy man.

If you walked through the streets or back alleys when school wasn't open, you could see children, black and white, playing together, shooting marbles, playing pen knife, jumping rope, sleigh riding or ice skating, depending on the weather or season. The black men and white men worked together at the mill, swapped jokes, shared their chewing tobacco and called each other by their first names.

The Greenbrier River was a sight to see, both in winter and summer. In winter the ice would freeze from bank to bank. It was then time for the chil-

dren to ice skate or take their sleds on the ice. Sometimes we would get ice from the river and make a freezer of ice cream if we could afford the cream, sugar and eggs. When spring came it brought warm rains and the ice began to melt. When the ice started out it took everything in its way, with it sometimes outdoor toilets, hog pens, chicken houses, and maybe a rooster sitting on top of the chicken house, crowing as if it were early morning. The swinging bridge would

usually be pulled loose from its anchors on the bank and would have to be rebuilt. People along the river banks had to move out to higher ground so they would not be caught in the high water. It would not last long, soon the river would be back to normal. Toilets, chicken houses, etc. were rebuilt again. Soon afterward one could see smoke rising here and there from small fires, where people were cleaning their yards and gardens, getting ready to plant gardens or just watch the grass and flowers come through the earth. Boys would begin to talk "fishing" and girls began to talk "swimming." Oh yes, we fished, swam and took Saturday night baths, and just waded in the Green

Continued on Page 5.

drier and Deer Creek waters.

One can't go back and rebuild Cass as it used to be and no one wants to, we can enjoy the Cass that has been reborn into a tourist attraction. Some of the old timers are not here anymore. They have gone to the Big Lumber Yard in the Sky. Some have moved away, and some are still around and if they can get someone to listen they like to share their memories of the years gone by, their work on the mountain, the train, mill and lumber yard. The younger people of our day have either moved away or built new houses in or around Cass and have established a new and happy life for themselves. Some like to watch the tourists come and go. Some like the new Cass and others don't. As the world changed, so did Cass,

but I'm glad some of the people stayed around and helped in the rebirth of Cass as a tourist attraction, a place where people can come and see the beauty of the mountains which only God could create. They can look around and see where the logs came from and where they were sawed into lumber. The tourist can look around Cass and look back through the years and say "There were once some hard working people here with lots of love and laughter, heartaches and pain—all the ingredients to make a small town prosper. Maybe when they get home they can look at their house and say "You know, maybe some of the boards in this house came from that old mill in Cass, West Virginia."

Mrs. Oliver Sprouse
Dumfries

35

①

Schools 1912

The following article was taken from the Pocahontas Independent (March 21, 1912), and brought to us by Miss Alice Waugh.

Pocahontas Teachers Lack Preparation

(Says Superintendent Williams in Public Letter)

Also recommends that libraries be placed in more schools in the County and that school house yards be fenced and cleaned up.

"I do not wish to be understood as always complaining about something or that I am never satisfied with anything, but there are a few things in connection with the free schools of Pocahontas County that I would like to see adjusted. The first is we have to use too many teachers from other counties many of whom are not personally interested in the children of our county and consequently we are not getting justly ours. Then again a few of those teachers at least belong to the traveling brigade and never teach or expect to teach but one school in a place, and some do not finish a term of six months but quit at once, two or three months on a frivolous excuse of "called away," "sick," "do not like it here" and many other excuses that happen to enter the mind at that particular time and the trustees and secretary will sign up for him and he will go his way rejoicing.

"Then, there seems to be another idea prevailing in the minds of the school officers as well as some people of this county, that a teacher who proves unsatisfactory, or in other words neglects his duty or is incompetent or spends his time when not in school in riotous living must necessarily spend the six months or the time for which he was hired before the matter can be adjusted. Then the only recourse is not to hire him again, which in my mind is an outrage on the children and taxpayers of our county. If the free

school system permits such work as that to go on unnoticed we had better get our eyes opened to the situation.

"I have taken in the situation as honestly and carefully as I know how and in my opinion about 75 per cent or three-fourths of the teachers in this county this year have done and are doing most excellent work, work that will never be compensated for in this world in dollars and cents no matter what their salary might be. These teachers will never receive their remuneration until the Great Books are opened and they hear that plaudit.

"Well Done," then they will receive their back pay.

"Then about 20 per cent or one fifth of the teachers of this county this year are doing medium work not being accused of doing very much or not entirely excused as to doing their whole duty in all things. For this class there is some excuse for consideration and patience. We hope to see improvement among this class another year. Shall we see it?

"Then that other 5 per cent of teachers who show no conception of their duty toward their schools, the children under their charge or the people in general, who only live for Friday evening and pay day. For this class I have no patience, I exercise no consideration whatever for this class, and in my opinion the only remedy for this class is to turn them out as fast as you find one. If it were in my power I would not permit such a teacher to finish the day before being dismissed.

"In another article I have shown that only three out of every four pupils of this county are in school this year, that only thirteen school grounds are fenced out of a total of 110; that out of 132 teachers we have one professional and two primary certificates; that 34 schools are without libraries and that 47 out of 132 are teachers from other counties, and that those teachers are holding the most lucrative school positions in our county and we are glad to say holding them to the gratification

and profit of the patrons and children. Why do they hold them? Because we have not got the right talent or enough of the right talent? No not at all. The answer is apparent. We are not qualified and do not show enough interest in our preparation to hold those positions of trust and profit.

Our school officers are ready to employ native teachers when they know they have the talent in the county and that talent is properly prepared. Ask yourself how many schools in this county that pay above the average salary or the graded and high schools in other words, are in charge of county teachers.

"In consideration of the above named facts I would ask every teacher and those expecting to teach (and I hope there are many) to take advantage of the educational advantages offered in this county at the present time. We have a normal in session at Buckeye at the present time and will possibly have a spring normal at Academy this spring and the Marlinton normal school will open April 29 and continue ten weeks.

"Each of these schools will be in charge of competent instructors and it is hoped that our people will appreciate these opportunities and avail themselves of the benefits there derived.

X

"If you should be inclined to leave our county for instruction we have six normal schools in the state and one first class university besides several other schools of prominence that will be glad to receive you.

"I feel that our teachers and school officers are not satisfied with three-fourths of the pupils of our county in school and that we will have a united effort next year in getting more children in school.

"Is it not best to have all our school grounds fenced and cleaned up, and to have a good useful library in every school house?

"Is it not in our power to have more county teachers better qualified and with a determination to be in the first class mentioned in this article?

"Have the patrons not a right to ask that we have more primary teachers who make it their business to do that kind of work and do it right that the children may be started in the right way?

"If these things are ever accomplished it will be largely through the efforts of the teachers and school officers and public sentiment.

"I realize how vain are the efforts of a county superintendent in doing anything in particular except to answer letters, growl occasionally and draw his salary quarterly.

I am yours truly,
B. B. Williams"

"The following educational statistics for Pocahontas County for the 1911-1912 school year were compiled by County Superintendent B. B. Williams:

TEACHERS

"Number employed up to the present time, 132; number county teachers, 85; number teachers from other counties, 47; number home county teachers holding No. 1 graded school certificates, 27; number home county teachers holding No. 2 graded school certificates, 8; number home county teachers holding No. 3 graded school certificates, 1; number teachers from other coun-

ties holding No. 1 graded school certificates, 19; number teachers from other counties holding No. 2 graded school certificates, 0; number from other counties holding No. 3 graded school certificates, 0; number home county teachers holding elementary No. 1 certificates, 6; No. 2, 26; No. 3, 16; number home county teachers holding primary certificates, 1; number teachers from other counties holding elementary certificates; No. 1, 6; No. 2, 15; No. 3, 5; total, 26; number teachers from other counties holding professional certificates, 1; number teachers from other counties holding primary certificates, 1; number teachers doing high school work (either wholly or partly), 5; number teachers studying reading circle course in some way, 108; number teachers not studying reading circle course in any way, 24; number teachers teaching in dirty school houses, 10; number teachers trying to teach without any order or discipline, 15; number of teachers reported to board for neglect of duty, 4.

LIBRARIES

"Number volumes in the schools of the county, 5,895; number of schools having libraries, 76, number schools without libraries, 34.

GROUND

"Number school grounds fenced, 13; number school grounds not fenced, 97.

PUPILS

"Number pupils enumerated in the county, 4,100; number pupils enrolled in schools on my visit, 2,976; number pupils who graduated the first common school examination this year, 52; taxes levied for the support of schools this year, \$67,091.54; cost per pupil for a term of six months based on enrollment, \$22.54; cost per pupil for a month of 20 days based on enrollment, \$3.75; number pupils enrolled 1st grade, 755; 2nd grade, 369; 3rd grade, 422; 4th grade, 490; 5th grade, 375; 6th grade, 198; 7th grade, 164; 8th grade, 146; high school, 57."

POCAHONTAS TIMES

(Page 2)

Published every Thursday except
the last week of the year.
Entered at the Post Office at Mar-
lington, West Virginia 24854, as
second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

In Pocahontas County \$4.00 a year.
Elsewhere \$5.00 a year, in advance.

JANE PRICE SHARP, EDITOR

THURSDAY, NOV. 13, 1975

Pioneer Days—July 9-11, '76

Old Opera House

By Frances Makridge

Several months ago, I ran
an article in the Times
asking for any information
anyone might have on the
history and activity of the
Opera House in Marlinton.
I received many interesting
and enthusiastic responses
about the old place and
what a center of commu-
nity life it was in the early
1900's. I would like to
report to you what I have
heard and hope you will
add or correct any informa-
tion you may have.

The Opera House was
built by J. G. Tilton in 1909
or 1910. Mr. Tilton came to
Marlinton from Mt. Ver-
non, Ohio, and was a court
reporter and later served as
clerk. He was married to
Mary Eveva Dilley, Floyd
Dilley's sister. Mr. J. G.
Tilton died in 1945 and his
wife in 1973. The Tiltons
had three sons, Virgil Til-
ton, deceased, Curtis Til-
ton, and Charles Warren
Tilton, of Charleston, and
one daughter, Lillie Tilton
Miller, deceased. Curtis N.
Tilton is the present owner
of the opera house.



The Skating Rink

In an interview with Mrs.
H. P. Spitzer, of Marlinton,
I learned that three men
who worked on the con-
struction of the building
were Andrew Moore,
brother of Mrs. Guy Faulk-
ner, and ~~Doan~~ Johnson.
Mr. Moore and Mr.
Johnson did the cement
work and railroad rails
were used to reinforce the
concrete. It was also
reported that Bob Jordan,
Betsy Edgar's father, did
the carpentry work. Much
of the fine carpentry work
done in Marlinton was done
by Mr. Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Tilton lived
upstairs in the building
next door to the opera
house. One son was born
there, Mrs. Spitzer remem-
bers.

Harold Dilley, a nephew
of Mrs. Tilton, remembers
that the Dilley Hotel was
across the street from the
present Marlinton Metho-
dist Church. This was a
three-story frame building.
A. H. McFerrin, Mr. and
Mrs. Tilton, and the Floyd
Dilleys were some of the
folks who lived there.
Harold Dilley was born
there and remembers that

HIS FATHER

Virgil Tilton was born there. This was around 1913, because that was the year of the flood and Harold Dilley was a baby and had to be taken out of the house and was put on a horse with his mother.

How Was the Old Opera House Used?

Apparently, opera houses were built all over the country to be used in a variety of ways for entertainment and community activities.

Around 1912, Mr. J. G. Tilton was editor of a Republican paper similar to the Pocahontas Times. It was a weekly paper and was called Marlinton Messenger. Mrs. H. P. Spitzer, 17 years old, Lena Jordan, later married to Gary Briggs, and Nola Buzzard, later to Jim Baxter, were the girls who set type for this paper. This paper was worked up in this opera building.

A basketball team was organized for Marlinton and the games were played in the opera house. In an interview with the late Paul Overholt, I gained much information about these activities. Mrs. Orion Gum, of Hinton, sent me a picture of this ball team and the names of the players:

Mrs. H. P. Spitzer recalls the days of the skating rink when the young people met to skate much as they meet for dancing today. She thought it was 15 cents to rent skates for an evening. Paul Overholt remembered being a skate boy and used to put the skates on the girls. Sometimes, a small band played and some of those in the band were Mr. H. P. Spitzer, drummer, Frank Anderson, and Bob Krammer, who played bass horn. Often, fancy skaters were brought in to give demonstrations. There was a stage across the front of the building and run-ways were built down for the performers to skate on to the floor. My mother, Mrs. Lura Brill, and my aunt, Mrs. Mabel Hudson, remembered skating at the opera house and Floyd Dilley was in charge of this activity.

Theatre Activity

Of course the original idea for the opera houses was to bring artists and also put on local plays. There was a large stage at the front of the room, which is still there. A balcony runs around the sides and back of the room. Seats were fastened together with slats and were moved out for

performances.

Some of the plays which were given were: *Madame Butterfly* with Guy Branton and Paul Overholt. *So Long Mary* which starred Paul Overholt and Fanny Overholt. The plays were practiced at Michael Poe's house so as to free up the building for other activity. Minstrel shows, Lyceum Courses, and solo artists, all were part of the theatrical world of this period.

The first movie there was "The Diamond From the Sky" starring that three Pickfords, Mary, Jack, and Lottie.

Alice Moore and Nancy Currence remember the production "Pied Piper of Hamelin" around 1916. Alice and Nancy were rats in that production. Warren Arbogast and Margaret Moore wrote from Sweet Springs, that they too remember this production.



Front row (l to r) Paul Overholt, sub center, Arden Killingsworth, center, Drew Eucker, guard. Back row (l to r) Leland Shoemaker, Mgr., Clayborne Nelson, forward, Orion Gum, guard, and Henry Hiner, forward.

Paul Overholt told me that the old opera house floor was the largest basketball court in the State for a while. The team beat Davis & Elkins College. Paul Yeager was a big star attending Hampton Sydney College, and he would come in and play with the Marlinton boys.

39
OLD OPERA HOUSE

They mentioned the following people that were in this play or some other in the opera house: French Moore, Hull Yeager, Clair Haught, Fred Hobert, Lula and Rita Herold, Hazel Shrout, and Helen Moore.

Betty Clay Sharp remembers how impressed she was with the stars in evening dress, performing on this stage. She said to her, they seemed like characters out of a book in fancy costume.

Mrs. Violet Markland (formerly Violet Sharp) writes, "My sister, Ada Sharp, from Slatyfork, gave a recital in the old opera house. She had graduated from Wesleyan College in Buckhannon in Expression or Elocution, then went on to Boston, Massachusetts to the Greeley Institute for further training. She was in some plays with Roy Rogers; he had a rope act. When she was home for a visit, she gave a free concert in the old opera house, about 1914. She married and lived in Baltimore until her death in 1956. One of her daughters is Helen Hannah of Slatyfork.

The Presbyterian Church

In 1916, when the old Presbyterian Church in Marlinton was torn down and the new one was being built, services were held in the Opera House. Alice Moore remembers the signs around the room the skaters: "No spitting on the floor," etc., and she said her brother, Hunter, was amused by these signs during church. Her mother was not amused by his behavior.

Other events remembered were a forest festival, a kind of county fair. Betty Clay Sharp remembered the exhibits, both inside and out. She said she had a pig for a project one time.

In 1918, the High School

burned and many school activities had to be held in the opera house building. That is a school story and has come out in a school history.

Those Were The Days

Wouldn't it be fun to relive the days when the community had a center of creative and wholesome activity? If you have memories of these days and this place, the Old Opera House in Marlinton, write them to the Pocahontas Times and let's revive this spirit from the past.

Here is a quote from an interesting letter from Ralph Michael of Elkins. Ralph is the son of Mrs. Nellie Shrader and taught in Pocahontas County for several years. This letter was written to Frances Eskridge.

"I read in THE paper that you are pursuing an interest in the Old Opera House in Marlinton. I am glad to hear this. I didn't know that anyone else had ever given it a second look. I have often looked at it and I feel sure that I have over romanticized it in my mind. I used to have my car repaired there when it was Pifer's garage. I would go in waiting for the car and look up into the balcony hanging with mufflers and tail pipes and see a balcony full of people with eager and expectant faces glowing in theatrical lights from mysterious sources.

While I don't think the building is outstanding architecturally, it is an impressive size, and I do think the Romanesque arches of windows and doorway are rather grand.

I don't know that historically or architecturally it could be placed on the National Register but it might be worth a try.

Good luck! Wouldn't it be great if the county-town would convert it into a theatre, movie house, community auditorium, or "what-have-you."

KNAPPS CREEK

Homes—The pioneer homes have mostly been replaced by new modern buildings. A telephone line reaches nearly every one. Many of the houses have been provided with water system and light plants.

The only brick residence in the valley is the one where I. B. Moore dwells. Mr. Moore's father had this house built. The man who had the contract burned the brick and did all the work for the consideration of two sorrel horses. The home has been well preserved to this day.

Conclusion—In conclusion I wish to say that Knapp's Creek Community has furnished to the world ministers, college professors, a judge, doctors, lawyers, civil engineers, teachers and people of many professions. Seven teachers have come from Douthard's Creek School alone since 1910.

We are all very much indebted to Rev. Wm. T. Price for the history he recorded and left us. It is to be hoped that the people of each neighborhood will follow his example and keep a record of future events in a more accurate manner than they have in the days past.

The Moore schoolhouse first stood on the east side of the creek at the foot of the Allegheny Mountain, a short distance above Coe Beverage's, as the road was there at that time. Later, after the road was changed the schoolhouse of this sub-district was built further up the valley above C. D. Newman's. When it was decided that this structure could not be used any longer the house in which school is taught at this time was built.

The first school taught at Cove Hill near Frost was approximately in 1894 by J. M. Barnett.

Douthards Creek schoolhouse was built in 1910. It has also been used for preaching services and Sunday School.

A one-room building was first at Minnehaha Springs.

It was probably erected twenty-five years ago. The two-roomed building was put up in 1915. W. L. Herold was the contractor.

ing ended crisis

What had to be worked was the Treaty of Paris, for two years laboriously pounded out in that city by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay. The last article of that document required its ratification within six months. By mid-January of 1794, there were only two months left, and time had to be allowed for Congressional presentation and argument, plus getting the signatures back across the Atlantic in two winters.

What was going on with the Maryland delegation was typical. Its representatives were James McHenry, who, more than any other man, was responsible for bringing Congress to Annapolis; he left Congress the last week of December, Samuel Chase

did not attend sessions at all. Thomas Stone did not show up until March. John Blair, who resigned in February, also never had set, being ill at home the whole time. Only Jeremiah T. Chase, also the city's new mayor, was on hand.

Under the Articles of Confederation, nine states — two-thirds — of the thirteen had to be represented for a quorum. Only seven were so represented on Jan. 12.

The next day, the two delegates from Connecticut showed up, having been delayed by the heavy snow that continued to blanket the region.

A quorum was still lacking, so Thomas Jefferson urged another day's wait until a nervous William Mifflin of Pennsylvania,

serving as president of the Congress.

On the 14th appeared Jacob Read of South Carolina. His arrival made all the Congressmen extremely happy, as they had at one time even seriously considered traveling en masse to catch member's boats and be showed up to ensure a vote.

Securely had Read taken his seat when Mifflin called the session to order, and passage of the Treaty of Paris was achieved through in record time with a unanimous vote, much to the relief of everyone concerned.

Not satisfied with that, however, an additional pair of copies were drawn and signed, and dispatched first with in the hands of two other messengers via two

other ports. Nobody was taking any chances on the treaty's not getting to England on time.

Jefferson, who apparently kept no diary, but did keep a sort of expenditure day book, noted of the day merely that he "gave 300 to buy 2 blankets, 30 shillings."

Other Congressmen, having done their good work thereupon began, as their first semi-official act of independence and free, self-determined tradition, disappearing immediately afterward.

Thus we shall, for the 174th time, celebrate Ratification Day in Annapolis today, with only a handful of Congressmen on hand to witness the true anniversary of American independence. Tradition also holds